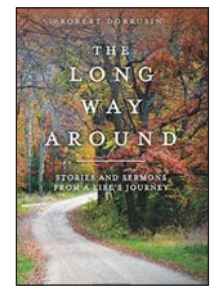
## In this issue...

Jews have strong presence at Women's March page 6

A lesson from trees on Tu B'Shevat page 9




Rabbi Dobrusin's new book page 16

Washtenaw Jewish News
c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 85

WASHTENAW
# JEWISH NEWS

February 2017 Sh'vat/Adar I 5776 Volume XVI: Number 5 FREE

## Community in difficult times – January 2017 edition

*Karla Goldman, special to the* WJN

On Wednesday, January 11, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor hosted an unusual intergenerational gathering. Fourteen students from the University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) met with about 25 Ann Arbor Jewish community members to consider and share personal and community responses in anticipation of the inauguration off Donald Trump.

Leaders of the JCC and JCLP, and other community members felt that in a time of growing expressions of racist and anti-Semitic hatred and violence that there was a need to come together as a community. Acknowledging the uncertainties of the transitional time leading up to Trump's inauguration, it seemed premature to call a gathering focused only on Trump. A decision was made to reach out to individuals who had participated in a session last June that was held in the wake of the Pulse Nightclub massacre. That June discussion, entitled "Community in Difficult Times," had demonstrated that many members of the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community valued the opportunity to come together as Jews in response to shared concerns at times that they might otherwise feel helpless.

**Deborah Greene shared her thoughts about the presidential election**

The most recent discussion, dubbed "Community in Difficult Times – January 2017 edition,"

allowed community members and the students to hear how others were understanding, processing, and responding to what for many was a very challenging moment. The participants discussed providing access to information that could help people mobilize and act. Participants spoke both about the need to attend to "inside" and

*Continued on page 2*

## Inaugural 25th anniversary performance of *Remnants* at EMU

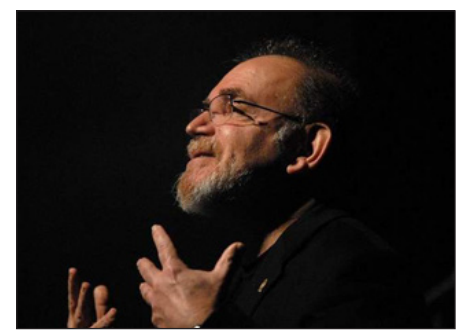
*Martin Shichtman, special to the* WJN

Henry Greenspan will perform his play, *Remnants*, at Eastern Michigan University's Honors College (511 W. Forest Street, Ypsilanti) on Thursday, March 9, at 7 pm. The EMU program is the first of the 25th Anniversary series of *Remnants* performances that will extend through 2018. Admission is free of charge.

The current version of *Remnants* is based on Greenspan's more than 40 years interviewing, writing, and teaching about Holocaust survivors. The play was first produced for radio at WUOM-FM in Ann Arbor in 1992 and distributed to NPR stations nationwide. Greenspan began presenting the play as a one-man staged performance in 1997, and has since brought it to over 300 venues worldwide—including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; the John Houseman Theater in New York; the New British Library; and the Attic Theater in the former Theresienstadt concentration camp, a space used for performances during the Holocaust itself.

Unlike conventional testimony projects—almost always based on one-time interviews—Greenspan has met with the same survivors over months, years, and sometimes even decades. Not surprisingly, what survivors say over the course of sustained conversation differs from what they say in single interviews.

Indeed, Greenspan emphasizes that, "*Remnants* is not testimony in the usual sense. Rather, it is about the process of recounting—the story behind the story. It recreates conversational moments in which survivors struck on an image or anecdote that 'nailed' what they were attempting to convey, both about the destruction and about living after The action is in the retelling itself: survivors' finding such images, their strategic deployment, and the particular relationship that each survivor works to establish with their audience."



**Henry Greenspan**

*Remnants* has received wide recognition and numerous awards, reviewers emphasizing the minimalist power of the play. "Each

*Continued on page 2*

## Jim Gerstein to speak on the Jewish vote in the 2016 election

*Martin B. Shichtman, special to the* WJN

For many Americans, the results of last November's election are still incomprehensible. As part of the lecture series, "Jewish Politics in 2016: A Community Conversation," Jim Gerstein, one of America's leading expert on Jewish voting patterns,

**Jim Gerstein**

offer an explanation of what happened and where the political future is likely to take us. The series is presented by the Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies.

Jim Gerstein is a founding partner of GBA Strategies, and provides research-based strategic counsel for candidates running for office, non-profit organizations, arts and cultural institutions, and Fortune 500 companies. He has served as executive director of the progressive research and strategy organization, Democracy Corps; executive director of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation; and established Israel's Institute for Peace and Security, which provides financial, organizational, and strategic support for Arab-Israeli projects.

Gerstein will speak on Wednesday, February 15, (the date has been changed from January 25) at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Student Center Auditorium, 900 Oakwood Street. Admission is free.

For more information, contact: jewish.studies@emich.edu.

This lecture is made possible through an Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

Test Drive Your Retirement
Call for a Comprehensive Review
FIFTY-ONE YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
LONG-TERM CARE
We Change People's Lives by Aligning Action with Intention.... Insurance... Investments.... Ideas Compelling Conversations

Carol Hoffer
CLU, CASL
777 E. Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 220
Ann Arbor MI 48108
(734) 663-8374
(734) 663-1728 fax
carol .hoffer@ nm. com

Page Avenue Books
Kindle, schmindle . . .
Real books are cool again !!
We're sourcing collections and estates at this time. Email us.
pageavenuebooks@gmail.com

Amadeus
CAFE • PATISSERIE
Elegant Central European Dining
Pastries • Tortes • Soups • Salads
Traditional Foods & Vegetarian Selections
Candlelight Dinners with Live Classical Music
www.amadeusrestaurant.com
122 East Washington Street
(734) 665-8767
Mon. Closed • Tue., Wed. & Thur. - Lunch 11:30-2:30; Dinner 5-10
Fri.- Lunch 11:30-2:30; Dinner 5-11 • Sat. - Lunch 11:30-3; Dinner 3-11
Special Sunday Brunch - 11:00- 3


# Community

## *Community in difficult times, continued from page 1*

"outside" concerns. Many pointed to the importance of supporting and reaching out to those groups that may prove most vulnerable amidst changing policies and the surfacing of overt racist and anti-immigrant threats. Others reminded the group that with hate speech and violence on the rise, this is a time when it is particularly important to monitor and respond to the threat of anti-Semitic expressions and acts. In the end, there was a feeling that this is a time when both "inside" and "outside" concerns will remain of great importance.

**Karla Goldman facilitated the community meeting in January**

Participants were enlightened and heartened to hear from those with whom they might not otherwise interact. The JCLP students were moved to hear the concerns and actions shared by community members of older generations. Second-year JCLP student Lauren Rouff reflected that although she had wondered what would be gained by processing the election results one more time, she realized that, "this moment is something we have to keep talking about, as repetitive and painful as it sometimes might seem. I was inspired by the actions people are taking, the desire for others to take action, and the general connectedness everyone feels to Ann Arbor as a community." Second-year student Mariel Schwartz also noted that she found the evening "inspiring and also emotionally validating. When I think about the question, 'What now?' I find comfort in the activism and energy of the Ann Arbor Jewish community. We're not alone in this and, as I saw Wednesday night, folks are eager to make a difference and have an impact. I think our community conversation was the start of something big and now it's up to us to move that energy forward."

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program offers a course of study for MSW students within the University of Michigan's School of Social Work and in coordination with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies to train MSW students interested in working in and learning more about Jewish community. The January 11 meeting was one of many opportunities for students to interact with the broader Ann Arbor Jewish community. The second-year JCLP students invite all community members to join them on Sunday, February 19, from 1–5 pm at the University of Michigan School of Social Work (1080 South University Ave.) for a "Day of Inclusion" which will include study with Rabbi Benay Lappe of Chicago and a rethinking of the margins of Jewish community. To participate in the Day of Inclusion and/or to be included in invitations to future intergenerational community conversations, contact Paige Walker at (734) 764-5392 or vpwalker@umich.edu. *See article, page 4.* ■

**Rabbi Benay Lappe**

## Remnants, *continued from page 1*

monologue encompasses the Holocaust's unspeakable, inexplicable horror within what amounts, in most instances, to a simple anecdote. Anything more would be redundant," said the Philadelphia Inquirer. Alvin Rosenfeld, former chair of the academic committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, notes: "This is Holocaust theatre at its best—a work that carries authenticity in every one of its taut, spare words." Omer Bartov of Brown University writes: "Of the countless attempts to represent the Holocaust, *Remnants* stands out as a uniquely succinct and piercing glimpse into the immeasurable horror of genocide. This play has more to tell us than many learned volumes."

**Henry Greenspan performing in *Remnants***

The March 9 performance is co-sponsored by EMU's Center for Jewish Studies; the Honors College; the School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts; the Department of English; and the Department of Psychology. For information, contact Martin Shichtman at (734) 487-0978, or jewish.studies@emich.edu ■


WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
voice: 734/971-1800
e-mail: WJN.editor@gmail.com
www.washtenawjewishnews.org

**Editor and Publisher**
Susan Kravitz Ayer

**Calendar Editor**
Claire Sandler

**Advertising Manager**
Gordon White

**Design and Layout**
Dennis Platte

**Staff Writers**
Mary Bilyeu, Sandor Slomovits, Rochel Urist

**Contributing Writers**
Barb Banet, Lisa Bernstein, Laurie Cohen, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Peretz Hirshbein, Rabbi Efrayim Mintz, Karen Freedland, Karla Goldman, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Peretz Hirshbein, Rachael Hoffenblum, SooJi Min, Kelsey Robinette, Mae Sander, Haley Schreier, Martin B. Shichtman, David Shtulman, Elliot Sorkin, Paige Walker

*The Washtenaw Jewish News* is published monthly, with the exception of January and July. It is registered as a Non-profit Michigan Corporation. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of its editors or staff.



©2017 by the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. All rights reserved. No portion of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.



Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor at WJN.editor@gmail.com. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

**Circulation: 4,500**
**Subscriptions:**
**$12 bulk rate inside Washtenaw County**
**$18 first-class subscription**

**The deadline for the March 2017 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Friday, February 6.**
**Publication date: Wednesday, February 26**
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.


# In this issue...


Advertisers ..... 23
Best Reads ..... 16
Calendar ..... 19
Congregations ..... 11
Kosher Cuisine ..... 18
Rabbis' Corner ..... 9
Youth ..... 14
Vitals ..... 23

# February presentations at JCC touch on nature and comedy

*Karen Freedland, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community of Greater Ann Arbor's cultural arts department will present two enrichment opportunities in February. On Wednesday, February 8, from 7–8:30 p.m., Executive

Director Doug Koop of Washtenaw County's Legacy Land Conservancy, will present a vivid picture of its 45-year history and a compelling vision for the region's future.

Founded in 1971 as Michigan's first local land trust, Legacy Land Conservancy is a private nonprofit organization that works with individuals, landowners, organizations, and local government to protect forests, prairies, farms, wetlands, and waters. The Legacy's mission is to secure for current and future generations a land base for nature, agriculture, fresh water and recreation in both Jackson and Washtenaw counties and beyond. This event is free.

On Wednesday, February 22, at 7 p.m. Larry Kuperman will present "From Tragedy, Comedy," a presentation that traces the origins of Jewish comedy in America from its roots in Europe to contemporary comedians. He will help answer the question, "why is comedy such a part of Jewish culture?" Kuperman, a longtime member of the Ann Arbor Jewish community will be giving an original presentation on the subject noting that, "Jokes and comedy have always been a big part of my Jewish identity. But no matter how well I think that I know a topic, I always learn something new when I research it. Who knew that Sigmund Freud had such a sense of humor? Or that a runaway mule

**Larry Kuperman**

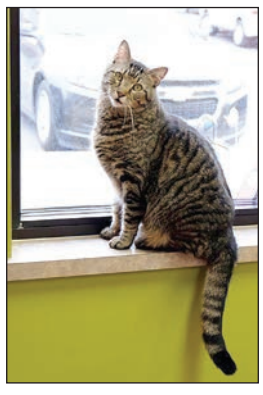
was responsible for the Marx Brothers becoming comedians? There are always surprises in our history."

Both presentations are free of charge and will be held at the JCC. Light snacks will be provided and donations are welcome and appreciated. For more information, contact Karen Freedland, director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, at karenfreedland@jccannarbor .org or (734) 971-0990. ■

## *Beat the winter blahs on Thursdays @ the J*

*Rachael Hoffenblum, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor offers its Lunch and Learn program weekly each Thursday. On February 2, speakers from Tiny Lions, Ann Arbor's new cat café, will visit to talk about the services they offer and ways to get involved. Representatives from the Ann Arbor Film Festival will discuss the history behind Ann Arbor's longest running independent film festival as well as what they have planned for this year when they visit the program on February 9. Celebrate chocolate with a visit from Dexter's Mindo



**A tiny lion**

Chocolate Makers on February 16. February will conclude with a talk by British artist, Sophie Grillet, on February 23. She will discuss her work that was on display in the Amster Gallery @ the J this past summer. The March lineup includes a visit from the owners of Ypsilanti's new start-up, Go! Ice Cream, and our bi-monthly visit from our TheraPaws owner/therapy dog teams.

**Sophie Grillet**

A dairy lunch is available for purchase at noon each Thursday, prepared by local caterer, Karan Balmer. Lunch is followed at 1 p.m. with a presentation covering a variety of topics including local non-profit organizations, current events, local cultural arts events, and other topics of interest. Presentations are offered free of charge and are always open to the public. To learn more about Thursday Lunch and Learn, contact Rachael Hoffenblum, Adult Programs coordinator, at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org, or (734) 971-0990. ■

Time to move?

Alex makes it easy for you to sell your home.

Get a real estate market analysis and a custom marketing plan tailored to fit your goals in today's high performing market.

Client relationships are confidential with highly customized sales strategies. To learn more, call (734) 417-3560 or email alex@alexmi.com.

ALEX MILSHTEYN, CRS, GRI, ABR
Associate Broker / Realtor
(734) 417-3560 / alex@alexmi.com
www.alexmi.com
Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel
305 E. Eisenhower Pkwy, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

An exclusive affiliate of Coldwell Banker Previews International

Ann Arbor's Realtor of the Year

# Welcoming and limiting Jewish students at U-M in the 1920s and 1930s

*Paige Walker, Special to the* WJN

On Thursday, February 2, Karla Goldman, Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work and professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, will speak about "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Michigan during the Era of Jewish Admissions Quotas, 1925-1939." Her talk will take place from 4–5:30 p.m., at the Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery (Room 100 North, 913 South University Avenue).

Beginning in the 1920s, as Northeastern elite private universities began imposing quotas on the percentage of Jewish students on campus, the U-M became an attractive destination for children of East Coast immigrant families. The university has long pointed to the presence of Jewish students during this period as evidence of its historic commitment to inclusion and diversity.

Efforts by American universities to limit the number of Jews on campus in the early and mid-twentieth century contributed significantly to the shaping of American university admissions policies and education. Understanding how and whether the U-M participated in these exclusionary developments is critical to the history of the university. Goldman will discuss evidence drawn from university admissions practices and the religious profile of U-M students in the 1920s and 30s to explore the ways in which the university both welcomed and limited the presence of Jewish students in this period. Given the intense focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in this bicentennial year of U-M, a better understanding of the university's historical approach to inclusion and diversity is particularly timely.

**Karla Goldman**

Goldman's lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a kosher reception. Those who arrive early and/or stay late will have time to see the related exhibition, "Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries" on display in the Special Collections exhibit space on the 7th floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library South. The exhibit will stay open late that night, until 7 p.m.

"Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries" is an ongoing exhibition curated by Elliot H. Gertel, the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica at the University Library, and is open through February 22, 2017.

In 1914, at the Second Convention of the Intercollegiate Menorah Association in New York City, Isaiah Leo Sharfman, University of Michigan professor of economics, who was perhaps the very first faculty member at U-M to take a noticeably active role in Jewish social, cultural, and academic life at the institution, noted the following as he referenced speakers at the event on the purpose of the movement:

> *Menorah Societies…are organized primarily for study. They aim to inform their members along the lines of Jewish history and literature and religion; they strive to stimulate serious thought in the many problems pressing for solution, which may properly be characterized as Jewish. The Menorah Movement is first and foremost a cultural movement: the entire field of Jewish knowledge is its sphere; the deepest and truest understanding of the Jewish spirit and of the Jewish contribution to the march of civilization is its goal."* —*Isaiah Leo Sharfman from* The Menorah Movement for the Study and Advancement of Jewish Culture and Ideals: History, Purposes, Activities, Ann Arbor, Mich., Intercollegiate Menorah Association, 1914.

This exhibition chronicles Jewish life and Judaic and Hebraic studies at the U-M from the early nineteenth century to the first Hebrew language and Hebrew Bible courses in 1890 to the founding of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies in 1988 to the present day. On display are Hebrew grammars that once belonged to John Monteith, first president of the university in 1817; pamphlets, periodicals, and programs on early twentieth century Jewish social life at the university; documents relating to the inauguration of Judaic studies in 1972 to its evolution into the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies in 1988; and a variety of other objects, correspondence, and photos including letters from US Supreme Court Justices Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter to I. Leo Sharfman.

For more information on the exhibit and related lecture, go to https://www.lib.umich.edu/events/striving-to-stimulate-serious-thought and https://www.lib.umich.edu/events/not-loud-offensive-type and e-mail egertel@umich.edu or call (734) 936-2367. ■

# Multilingualism in Israeli literature

*Kelsey Robinette, special to the* WJN

Until fairly recently, Israeli literature was understood as essentially monolingual, created exclusively in Hebrew. In the last few years, scholars have turned their attention to the many languages in which literature was, and still is, written in Israel. On February 16, the University of Michigan's Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Wieseneck Symposium will discuss Israeli literature written in Yiddish, Arabic, German, Russian, and English, as well as the interplay between these languages and Hebrew. Leading scholars from around the world will be in Ann Arbor to explore issues such as translation and self-translation, the politics of language in literature, and the historical shifts that enabled or restricted inter-linguistic contacts. Panels will be taking place all day, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Rackham Graduate School and are open to the public.

The symposium is part of the annual theme of Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies: "Israeli Histories, Societies, and Cultures: Comparative Approaches." Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, the Institute has been sponsoring events and panels on different aspects of Israel. The symposium is made possible by a gift from Gayle and Larry Wieseneck. This

is the fourth annual Frankel Center sponsored Wieseneck program to explore Israel in various contexts since 2013.

The symposium will include eight participants: Frankel Institute Head Fellow and University of Michigan Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies Shachar Pinsker, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies Maya Barzilai, U-M graduate student Yael Kenan, Frankel Institute fellows Naomi Brenner and Rachel Seelig, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature at the University of Oxford, Adriana Jacobs, associate professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University Lital Levy, and Alex Moshkin, a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania.

Moshkin, who will speak on Russian-language culture in Israel explained, "I demonstrate how different contemporary Russian-speaking writers and artists in Israel invoke Soviet-era cultural models (intelligentsia, dissent, cosmopolitanism) in order to make sense of their new social reality. Inadvertently, they created a unique Israeli-Russian culture that is predicated on the interplay and translation between Russian and Israeli cultural forms, traditions and languages."

Adriana Jacobs will explore the poetry of American-born Harold Schimmel and other English-speaking poets and translators living in Israel in the 1960s and 70s. She will discuss how translating his work from English to Hebrew affected the content of his work.

Levy remarked, "I'll be giving a talk about the current state of multilingualism in Israeli literature drawing on my own research in the area of Hebrew and Arabic, my sense of the field, and recent work I have done with my co-author Allison Schachter on Jewish literature and world literature." Levy's presentation will end the lecture portion of the symposium and lead in to a round table discussion.

Rachel Seelig and Maya Barzilai will talk about the interplay between German and Hebrew in the work of contemporary Israeli writers. Shachar Pinsker and Naomi Seidman will focus on the place of Yiddish in Israeli literature and culture, and Yael Kenan will examine the dialogue of Mizrahi Jewish poet with the Arabic poetry of the Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish.

Shachar Pinsker, who organized the symposium, added that the event is as timely as it is unprecedented. It is timely because of the recent realization that "Israeli literature" includes what's written in other languages, and also that Hebrew continues to be a diasporic language that is not limited to a territory or state. The symposium will be the first time that scholars who work on various languages in Israeli literature, will have a chance to present their work together, to share insights and to discuss challenges. He believes that this symposium will shape the scholarship on this topic for years to come. ■

# JCLP hosting annual communal conversation program

*Haley Schreier, special to* WJN

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan invites the community to their annual Communal Conversation on Sunday afternoon, February 19, at the U-M School of Social Work. Every year, second-year JCLP students welcome community members to join them for a program of engaged learning and conversation through which they can share some of the questions and issues that have become most important to them through their time in JCLP. This year, the students have invited Rabbi Benay Lappe of Chicago to help them frame an afternoon of learning focused on the theme of "What Could Inclusive Jewish Community Look Like?"

Rabbi Lappe is the founder of SVARA: a Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, and is currently the director of education and senior fellow at the Institute for the Next Jewish Future in Chicago. At SVARA, Rabbi Lappe has opened Talmud to a broad community of learners—empowering them to see that those parts of their identities that may make them feel most alienated from mainstream Jewish community are the very identities that can empower them as students of text and as members of an inclusive community. Lappe is also an associate of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Rabbi Lappe was named in *The Forward's* 2014 Most Inspiring Rabbis list, and is a recipient of the 2016 Covenant Award.

JCLP hopes you will join them to engage in a meaningful afternoon of study and engagement, inclusion and community. This year's Communal Conversation will be held at the U-M School of Social Work (1080 South University Ave.) in the Educational Conference Center (Room 1840) from 1–5 p.m. To RSVP or for more information, email Paige Walker at vpwalker@umich.edu. ■

*Haley Schreier is a second-year student in the Jewish Communal Leadership Program from Ann Arbor, studying management and community organizing.*

# HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

## OF ANN ARBOR

# חי חי חי

## *Triple Chai, Come and Try*

## $5,400 off regular tuition

### for 2017-18 kindergarten and young fives

Upcoming events for preschoolers and their families:

A Taste of HDS: Gan (Kindergarten) Open House - 2/26/17, 10am to 11:30am

A Taste of HDS: Hooray for Hebrew - 4/2/17, 10am to 11am

www.hdsaa.org • admissions@hdsaa.org • (734) 971- 4633

Jewish Federation® OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

# With overwhelming support, Jews join historic Women's March

*By Lilly Maier and Nathan Guttman*

The magnitude of the Women's March on Washington took Jewish participants, like many others, by surprise. Organized groups of Jewish protestors had planned to meet on a street corner not far from the rally's staging point and march together with the rest of the huge throng.

But as they got closer to the National Mall, it became impossible to keep up the structure. It was simply too crowded.

The Reform Movement was forced to close the doors for its special Shabbat morning services after reaching capacity at more than 1,300 participants. Hundreds of others waited outside. 25 local Reform clergy led the prayer, which was as much of a Shabbat service as a send-off for the troops going out to march. U.S. Rep. Jacky Rosen, a Democratic freshman from Nevada who is the first member of Congress to also serve as president of her Reform synagogue, told participants it is appropriate to recite the Jewish blessing aimed at healing pain and at the same time to say *shehecheyanu*, the blessing of praise, for the unity shown by the Jewish community.

The massive show of force staged on the same grounds that hosted Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony a day earlier, served as a cathartic moment for many Jewish Democrats and Clinton supporters seeking a way to channel their feelings of dissent and frustration.

"As the daughter of a child refugee, I must march," said Melissa Hacker a documentary filmmaker from New York. "As a woman concerned with the threatened defending of Planned Parenthood, repeal of the Affordable Care Act and criminalization of abortion I must march. As a citizen concerned with the privatization of education, prisons, water, I must march. As a human concerned with global climate change, I must march."

"Mom asked us to march for her," said Tamara Meyer, who was joined by her sister in downtown Washington. It was their mother's 91st birthday Saturday, but she made clear to her daughters that she'd rather see them march. Meyer, a lecturer and therapist from Potomac, Maryland, comes from a family of Holocaust survivors, and she believes it is her responsibility to do something "in the face of winds of fascism that are picking up speed and threatening the civil liberties that those of us in Europe and the U.S. have held dear."

"For it is not only in America that we are weeping for what has been lost," Meyer added.

Others framed their protest in more of a lighthearted, though no less committed, manner.

"We're marching today because we're f*ing pissed!," said Stacy Stuart, co-founder of JewBelong, an online portal that promotes Judaism. She and her co-founder Archie Gottesman, were part of a 60-person bus group from New York. "We're traveling with a diverse group. White, black, LGBTQ, men, women, young, old. And we're singing to everything from Hamilton to 60s peace songs. Some of us have never met but we're sharing snacks and smiles and a desire to stand up for humanity!"

**Julie Ketai, Sadie Agranoff, Rachel Lewis, Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Dan Kildee, Sonya Lewis**

**Mary Schuman, Elena Shur, Linda Levy and Helaine Reid at the Women's March in Lansing**

In the colorful noisy crowd that took over downtown DC for the better part of the day, Jewish protestors blended in well. Some carried home made signs, others held banners prepared by Jewish organizations, stating their religious affiliation, just like dozens of other diverse communal groups of faith, gender and ethnicity that joined the march. The National Council of Jewish Women, the only Jewish group that participated in the march's policy committee, organized hundreds of members carrying signs and stickers reading "Jewish Women Speak Up." The messages, however, were universal, stressing demands for women's rights, LGBT equality, and an end to racial discrimination. Though there were concerns beforehand that the march would be overtaken with anti-Israel messages, there seemed to be very few placards and chants that would have made Jews feel uncomfortable.

"It's all about human rights," said Elizabeth Hembree from Philadelphia. "I am Jewish and it's part of that, but to me, its about human rights."

And like others attending the massive gathering, Jewish participants sought to make clear they are not taking to the streets only to vent political frustration after witnessing their candidate lose the elections.

"This is clearly not just about politics but about an entire social movement that seems to be pointing in a direction away from many people's self interest, so we need to stand for our own self interest to make the streets safer," said Rabbi Scott Perlo of Sixth & I synagogue in Washington. He noted the recent bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers around the country as a sign of the concern American Jews felt since the elections.

The synagogue co-hosted, with Jews United for Justice and *T'ruah*, a full weekend of activities for participants of the march, sponsored by several progressive Jewish groups. Before joining the march Saturday morning, Yavilah McCoy, who is African-American, energized hundreds of Jewish participants gathered at the synagogue calling on them to keep up their activism even beyond the march. "We must stand up and say: 'not in my Jewish name,'" said McCoy.

The next step could present the biggest challenge for American Jews seeking to maintain their pledge of resistance. "It's all about tomorrow," said Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. His message to the community is to follow Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's call to pray with their feet by participating in the march, but also to plan for the upcoming weeks and months. This plan of action includes creating alliances with local churches and mosques to work together on social justice issues; getting involved in state-level advocacy efforts; and keeping the base mobilized on a national level "so Congress really feels the pressure. ■

*This article was originally published on January 22, 2017 at http://forward.com/news/national/360773/with-overwhelming-support-jews-join-sprawling-womens-march-against-trump/. Reprinted with permission from* The Forward Association, Inc.

Ann Arbor CITY CLUB

*Enriching Ann Arbor Since 1951!*

**Celebrate With Us!**
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Weddings and Receptions
Life's Other Milestones
(Kosher Caterers Welcome!)

**Join Us!**
Casual to Fine Dining
Programs and Classes
Guest Speakers
Community Service
Duplicate and Social Bridge
Event Hosting Privileges
Much More!

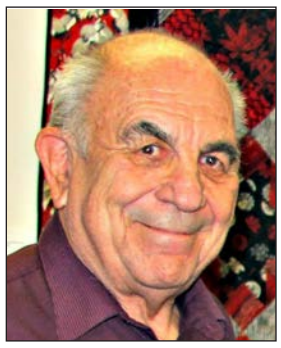
*1830 Washtenaw Avenue*
*Ann Arbor, MI 48104*
*734-662-3279*
*www.annarborcityclub.org*

# Apply to be a 2017 Levine Fellow

*By David Shtulman*

Rarely do volunteers have an opportunity to earn a free trip to Israel and to a national conference in return for a commitment to use the experiences to be a better volunteer. But, thanks to a grant from Michael Levine, that opportunity now exists in Ann Arbor.

Recruitment for the second cohort of Levine Fellows is now underway. Applications are available on the Federation website at www.jewishannarbor.org. Made possible by a generous grant from Michael Levine, the Levine Fellowship program enables five volunteers who have demonstrated a commitment to our Jewish community to understand and experience the global work of the national Federation system.



**Mike Levine**

The Levine Fellowship consists of three primary components. The first component is participation in a national Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) mission to Israel in July for Federation campaigners. This mission is comprised of 60–75 participants from 15–20 Jewish communities across the country. Its two-fold purpose is to show the participants the many ways in which Federation campaign dollars make a difference in the lives of Israelis from many backgrounds, help address social problems and promote a healthy society. This is accompanied by daily training in how to use these experiences to become better storytellers and fundraisers for the Federation Annual Campaign.

Sam Hirsch, a current Levine Fellow, had not visited Israel for over 40 years and was amazed by the country he saw as compared to the country he last visited. But the greatest impact for Hirsch, a long time Federation board member and past campaign co-chair, was seeing his dollars in action. "It is one thing to know that the money we give to the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) helps resettle Jewish immigrants from across the globe. It is entirely different to sit in an absorption center with a group of 20-somethings from the US, Britain, France, Hungary and Russia and to hear their stories first-hand." Hirsch also loves to tell people that the only Gay Pride Parade he ever marched in was in Jerusalem.

**Levine Fellows**

Marty Shichtman, director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Eastern Michigan University, noted that all his other visits to Israel were for academic conferences. He had no idea what to expect from a Federation mission and was very pleasantly surprised. "The people were fantastic, the organization amazing and I saw services in Israel that I had no idea existed." Shichtman was especially impressed by a JDC program in B'nai B'rak, an Orthodox community outside of Tel Aviv, which is helping bring hundreds of ultra-orthodox Jews to the workplace every year. "I was well aware that having a large segment of Israeli society study Torah full time instead of earning a living posed a huge financial burden on Israel. I had no idea there were successful models to alleviate this problem being funded by Federation campaign dollars."

For Donny and Sara Wohl, who had long been involved in the Detroit Federation, but were new to Ann Arbor, the mission to Israel had deeply impacted their commitment to Jewish community. "We were with people from age 25 to age 75 from all over the country. Each person brought their own stories and reasons for attending, but after a week together we knew we all had the same purpose."

The second component of the Levine Fellowship is participation in the annual JFNA General Assembly (GA) in November. The GA brings together approximately 3,000 Jewish community volunteers and professionals for three days during which they learn about and discuss the most important achievements of and challenges to the Jewish world. At the same time, participants learn about the national Federation system and have opportunities to interact with their peers from many Jewish communities around the United States and the world.

Stephen Aronson, chair of the Levine Fellows program and vice-president of the Federation board, attended the GA in November for the first time. "It was an incredibly intense experience; outstanding speakers on every topic from around the world, a plethora of workshops for every Jewish interest and opportunities to meet other Jewish volunteers and professionals struggling with the same challenges we are in Ann Arbor. It took weeks to process it all."

The Levine Fellowship pays all travel, hotel and mission/conference costs for each Levine Fellow.

The third component of the program is learning about each of the local beneficiaries of the Federation campaign and how they impact lives here in Washtenaw County. At the end of the year-long experience, Levine Fellows have made new friends, learned about the global Jewish support network and are in a better position to help guide Federation in its mission.

Fellows will be selected by the Levine Fellowship Committee based on their commitment to Jewish life, a personal essay and interview with the committee. Fellows must commit to participation in all aspects of the program, to increasing their pledge to the Federation campaign and involvement on Federation committees or the Board for at least three years.

If helping to sustain a vibrant Jewish community is important to you, if you plan to be in Washtenaw County for at least three years and you are willing to be an active Federation volunteer, I encourage you to apply for a Levine Fellowship. It could change your life.

Applications are due by March 31 and all details are included in the application.

If you do not want to be a Levine Fellow, but would like to attend the mission or the GA at your own expense, we also want to hear from you. Contact David Shtulman at (734) 677-0100. ■

# Dinner with the Family–brought back by popular demand–coming in April

*Laurie Cohen, special to the* WJN

For the first time since 2008, Jewish Family Services is bringing back the fundraising event Dinner with the Family. "We are so excited to bring back Dinner with the Family, because we've had requests about it for the past eight years," said Anya Abramzon, executive director of JFS. "This event raises funds to help our most vulnerable members. JFS is about families and connecting with community needs."

Proceeds from the event will go towards programs serving the most at-risk members in the community. Critical services supported include crisis management, food pantry, newcomers, family life education and senior services.

Dinner with the Family will take place over the weekend of April 21–23. A number of JFS supporters will serve as volunteer "hosts," and prepare a menu for a special meal they will serve at their home. The hosts then submit a menu of what will be served—limited only by their culinary creativity—that JFS will make into a book that serves as the event invitation.

Attendees will choose which meal(s) they'd like to attend, and will note their preferences when they purchase advance event tickets from JFS. Volunteer hosts have a great deal of flexibility, as they may choose to cook or cater the event in their home, or simply host a meal at a restaurant. JFS will host one of the dinners as well.

On the day of the meal, a JFS staff person will join each family in their home to assist with delivering information about JFS' services during the meal. Meals can be held on Friday, April 21, Shabbat dinner; Saturday, April 22, early dinner; Saturday, April 22, late dinner or dessert; Sunday, April 23, brunch; or Sunday, April 23, dinner.

JFS is currently seeking volunteer hosts to contribute a meal to a wide array of international choices that reflect many diverse cuisines. Anyone interested in learning more about hosting or in participating in this event, can contact Laurie Cohen at (734) 769-0209 or lcohen@jfsannarbor.org. ■

# *JFS' THRIVE counseling program open to all*

*Laurie Cohen, special to the* WJN

THRIVE, a program of Jewish Family Services (JFS), is dedicated to helping maintain a healthy and balanced life. JFS' THRIVE Counseling was founded as a positive approach to mental, emotional and behavioral health care and its licensed therapists provide clients with confidential, personal care tailored to individual needs.

THRIVE continues to grow with an increase in the caseload and staffing. JFS currently serves about 75 clients with 10–15 new requests for counseling each month. THRIVE offers counseling services by licensed therapists to adults, adolescents (aged 12–18), couples, and families. The services provided are accredited by CARF International. The JFS THRIVE staff includes six members who see clients and four contractual therapists. An additional two contractual therapists are in the process of becoming paneled with insurance plans in order for us to bill the client's insurance. JFS staff are credentialed with all the major insurance carriers including Medicare and Medicaid HMO plans. Lastly, there are six master-level student interns who also see clinical clients.

For more information, visit www.ThriveCounselingA2.com, email hello@ThriveCounselingA2.com or call (734) 436-4249. ■

# Jewish Women's Circle to host fiber arts workshop

*Mae Sander, special to the* WJN

In Jewish teachings, mitzvot are done through objects. Thus making a ritual object, such as a challah cover, has several levels of meaning beyond just crafting and making art," says Gabrielle Pescador, a local artist whose work in fibre arts reflects cherished objects and explores spiritual connections.

"At my upcoming workshop for the Jewish Women's Circle," she continues, "participants will be learning some wonderful techniques in fiber arts, either improvising or following a pattern. We'll see how art can be a vehicle to explore ideas and feelings, and how it can reflect a mystic component in the maker's life—not just an aesthetic. I'll incorporate ideas of Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat in our creative activities. And at the end of the workshop, everyone will have a beautiful challah cover to take home."

All Jewish women in the Ann Arbor area are welcome to the workshop, "Crafting Challah Covers with Gabrielle Pescador," on Monday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Esther Goldstein, sponsor of the Jewish Women's Circle (JWC).

Gabrielle Pescador's work involves making objects that relate to ritual use. About her art, she says: "In my art I am interested in the personal expression of the sacred and the role it plays in the construction of human identity. In particular, I am fascinated by cherished objects especially those that reflect personal histories connected to feelings of loss and grief."

In collaboration with Juan Javier Pescador, she has also worked on films and installations. Their joint work, which has been shown at several film festivals, has a focus on social justice. Their most recent documentary "Determined 2 Make It" examines the situation of youth in lock up facilities in Southeast Michigan.

**Fiber art by Gabrielle Pescador: Tallit Katan, (sisal and wood)**

Pescador has shown her individual work in a number of museums and exhibits. Her most recent academic degree is an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and she has studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"We're very excited to have Gabrielle presenting her wonderful techniques for creating a beautiful challah cover from a simple white cloth," says Esther Goldstein. "Even beginners will be able to obtain pleasing results with her guidance. At past meetings, we've enjoyed hands-on challah baking; now we'll be making covers to use when we put our loaves on the Shabbat table. We'll also enjoy a selection of traditional fruits for the coming holiday of Tu B'Shevat, which starts on Friday, February 10."

The workshop with Gabrielle Pescador, February 6, continues a series of JWC meetings with many varied activities, including craft workshops, cooking and baking demos, and health information presentations. All JWC meetings encourage making new friends, socializing, and learning. Donation requested: $10.

Email esther@jewmich.com or respond to the E-Vite for the event to reserve a place at this meeting. To receive future invitations, send email or join the JWC Facebook group. The JWC is open to all, no affiliation necessary. ■

# Showcase makes party planning fun

*Karen Freedland, Special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host the Ann Arbor Party and Events Showcase on Sunday, February 5, from 1–4 p.m. for anyone seeking or interested in connecting with event and party planning businesses. The Showcase is designed to be a one-stop shop for anyone organizing events such as graduation parties, weddings, baby or wedding showers, *b'nai mitzvot,* milestone birthday parties, and more. Longtime community members and event industry professionals, Staci Kennedy of Who's Got the Time, and Yael Zoldan of Designs That Matter, have volunteered to organize this event at the Ann Arbor JCC. Zoldan and Kennedy know how challenging it is to plan *b'nai mitzvot*, weddings, business events, and other types of social gatherings, "that is why we have organized this expo with professionals you can count on." Exhibitors will include businesses such as party planners, caterers, photographers, videographers, invitation specialists, florists, decorators, and entertainment specialists.

Zoldan and Kennedy note, "What is fun about an expo like this are the wonderful samples and goodies that vendors bring to share with attendees." The Showcase is free and open to all. For more information, contact Karen Freedland, director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990, ext 116. ■

# Tesla Motors, Pokémon Go, and hair-splitting Talmudic arguments

*Rabbi Efrayim Mintz, special to the* WJN

Engage in a brain-twisting, mind-wrestling, hair-splitting experience as you explore modern situations and the complex dilemmas they give rise to while you seek solutions by examining original Talmudic texts.

Beginning Tuesday, February 7, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, will offer a fascinating new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) called The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions. The class will be offered at Chabad House at 9:30 a.m. and at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor at 7:30 p.m.

In an example of one such conundrum, Tesla Motors is currently programming self-driving cars for instances when death is inevitable. Should they program the cars to swerve and avoid killing more pedestrians, but kill one whose life was previously not endangered? Should it favor the lives of pedestrians over passengers? Should it favor the lives of younger people over those who are older? And should owners be given the ability to determine these settings?

In another example relating to the recently popularized Pokémon Go mobile app: Should the game's creators be held liable in the hundreds of cases of trespassing and damages that were incurred because of Pokémon characters negligently programmed to be found on private properties?

"In The Dilemma we encounter fascinating, real-life conundrums; situations in which your gut instinctively responds one way, but your brain tells you quite the opposite," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's Brooklyn, New York headquarters. "To solve these dilemmas, participants are asked to break into study groups and explore hair-splitting Talmudic arguments that participants then debate and apply to solve the cases using new, interactive polling technology."

**JLI Class, 2016**

"The Dilemma is a mental expedition in which participants mind-wrestle with situations that force them to choose between two reasonable truths," said Rabbi Goldstein. "Participants will analyze, discuss, and debate original Talmudic texts to solve dilemmas and get an authentic taste of dynamic Talmud study."

"I find people in Ann Arbor love having the opportunity to engage in social discourse, particularly when it involves fascinating intellectual challenges and hot topics such as Pokémon Go and Tesla's self-driving cars," said Rabbi Goldstein. "This is by far the most captivating course we've ever offered and I encourage everyone to attend."

The Dilemma is accredited in Michigan for continuing legal education credits for attorneys and others in the legal professions. Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call (734) 995-3276 x 2 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the Chabad House.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998. ■

# What can we learn from trees?

*Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the* WJN

This year, Tu B' Shevat, the New Year of the trees, will be observed on February 11. The Torah tells us that man can be compared to a tree. A verse in Deuteronomy states that man is like a tree in the field. Therefore, when we celebrate the New Year of the Trees, it is for us as well as the trees. Some of the ways we observe this holiday is by eating fruits of the trees, not confessing our sins during prayer services and otherwise treating it like a holiday. This shows us that there is a deep relationship between man and the trees.

If man is the crown of creation and trees are considered lower in the hierarchy, the question arises as to the relationship between the two that allows a biblical comparison. Creation is divided into four kingdoms: the lowest kingdom is the inanimate, e.g., minerals; the next level up is the vegetable kingdom, e.g., plants; then comes the animal kingdom; and finally, humans.

So why does the Torah compare man to trees? The closest kingdom to man is the animal, but Torah skips it and goes down even further to the next lower level. This must tell us that there is something unique and special about the vegetable kingdom and specifically the trees, to the exclusion of the other categories, that is central to Judaism and can teach us a lesson about mankind. So what is unique about the vegetable kingdom that humankind is compared to it? It is always connected to its source of life — the ground. Even though animals and humans are also dependent on the Earth for their sustenance, and, as the Torah states, both man and animals were created from earth. However, God made them so that they don't have to be constantly connected to their source of life. The vegetable kingdom, however, has to be continually connected to its life source. If it is disconnected from the Eearth, it will shrivel-up and die.

The Rebbe brings up a related idea concerning fish. Fish have to be continually connected to its source—water. But the difference is that a fish has mobility. It can move about in the water whereas a plant has to remain connected via its roots to the earth from whence it sprang. So vegetation shows us how to remain continually connected to its source. Even within the vegetable kingdom itself, the trees illustrate this concept even stronger. A tree, once planted, will last for many years. It can overcome the unique challenges of each of the four seasons and thus endure for many years. As opposed to most other vegetation which can only survive for part of the year and must be harvested in its season before it dies off. A tree is so strongly connected to its source that it thrives year after year.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

So it is in this sense that we say man is compared to a tree. The very essence of the soul of a Jew is constantly connected to its source. It can never be disconnected. What is this essence? It is the godly soul that God has granted to every Jew. A Jew is constantly connected to this source. If a disconnect occurs, the person can no longer be alive. So, just like a tree is always strongly connected to it's source in the earth, so too a Jew is always connected to it's source in the soul.

How does this connecting to the soul manifest? It is through the study of Torah. As it is said in our prayers as well as the Talmud, that the Torah is the life of a person. From Torah, Jews draw the powers of their soul. Even though most Jews cannot constantly study Torah because they are busy making a living. So the time that most of us can spend studying Torah is a small amount of our day as we are busy doing mitzvot and making the world a place in which God can dwell. Consequently, it is important that we are reminded from time to time that we are compared to a tree. Similar to the tree, the portion that is constantly connected to the source is far less obvious, though no less important. The bigger, more obvious portion, like the above-ground portion of the tree, is the day to day lives that we lead making a living and doing good deeds in order to improve this world.

*When a person sets aside time to study Torah, which according to Jewish Law should be in the morning and the evening, the entire day will be filled with Torah inspiration and atmosphere.*

But also like the tree, we couldn't be strong and healthy and productive unless our less obvious, smaller aspect was healthy and vigorous as well. This can be likened to our Torah study. Even though it may be smaller as a percentage of our day and less obvious to observers, it is an essential component of a healthy life and though smaller can nevertheless sustain the larger, more obvious portion of our lives by its constant connection to our source of life. Even when a person is busy running around making a living, they should remind themselves of the lessons they learned when they had the opportunity to study Torah. So whatever amount of time is spent studying Torah it has profound and long-lasting, sustaining effects.

This ability to remind oneself of the knowledge gained during Torah study is not merely to reminisce about something that happened in the past, like the tree it is an essential connection to one's source of life. A living tree cannot be if it was merely once connected to its source, it must always be connected to its source. Even though the roots are the smaller part, they are nevertheless essential.

Thus, when a person sets aside time to study Torah, which according to Jewish Law should be in the morning and the evening, the entire day will be filled with Torah inspiration and atmosphere. This is the lesson we learn from trees and when it comes to Tu B' Shevat. ■

# Taking the long road

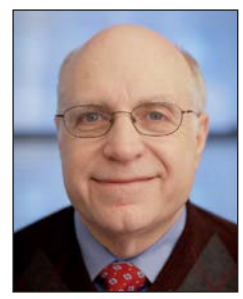
*Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the* WJN

I have always been intrigued by the verse that begins Parashat Beshalach, the section of the Torah that contains the story of the crossing of the Sea during the Exodus.

In this opening verse, we read that when Pharaoh sent the people out of Egypt, "God did not lead them out by the way of the Philistines *kee karov hu.*" This one phrase is usually translated: "although it was nearer." This translation seems to fit the context as in the rest of the verse, we read that God did not want the people to confront a potential enemy in their first moments of freedom. So, God took them on a different path even though it was longer.

However, the Hebrew text might argue for a different translation. The word *kee* usually means "because" and therefore, one might translate the verse as saying that God did not want to lead them on this path simply because it was the simplest, easiest and most direct path to Canaan.

In his commentary, Rashi translates it this way and explains that the fact that the path led directly to Canaan indicates that it would also be a direct path back to Egypt. This would seem to fit with the rest of the verse. If the people encountered an enemy, they would be tempted to turn and head back on the easy, straight road to Egypt.



Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

But, I want to explore a different idea. In order to do this, we have to read the verse phrase by phrase without taking into account the entire verse. This is not a logical way to read a section of Torah but it is fair game when we are engaging in Midrash, textual commentary.

God did not bring the people the way of the Philistines precisely because it was the quickest way.

Why would God choose a longer way from Egypt to Sinai and then on to Canaan?

Let me offer two possibilities. First, the people needed time to grow out of their "slave mentality," to experience freedom and to understand what it means to be free and by extension what it means to be responsible for themselves. This is not something that comes easily.

According to our tradition, there were seven weeks between the exodus and the giving of the Torah. This is an extraordinarily short time given four hundred years of slavery and the commitments which accepting the Torah represent. This generation never really learned how to be free and wandered in the desert for 40 years due to their rejection of the land. If this happened given a seven-week period of pre-Sinai wandering, how much more so would the people have struggled with their newly found freedom had the journey to Sinai been even shorter.

*The rejection of the close route stands as a reminder to all of us that worthwhile journeys do take time.*

But, on another level, the rejection of the close route stands as a reminder to all of us that worthwhile journeys do take time.

While the experience of "something coming easily" isn't always a negative, that which we achieve through hard work, through stops and starts, through twists and turns often is more meaningful. Through these simple words "because it was near," the Torah is reminding us that taking the long road is sometimes to our advantage.

When we set out to achieve a goal, it is tempting to set a timetable and try to stick to it as best we can.

But, sometimes giving ourselves the time and the space to wander a bit leads to an even more positive achievement than we might have believed possible. ■

Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

**SAVE THE DATE...**

## 2ND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

**THE POLO FIELDS - ANN ARBOR**
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017
12:15PM SHOTGUN START
$195/GOLFER OR $750/FOURSOME

CONTEST & HOLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
PLEASE CONTACT CLARA @ THE J FOR MORE INFORMATION.
clarasilver@jccannarbor.org -OR- (734) 971-0990

WASHTENAW**reads**
PRESENTS

KATHRYN J. EDIN & H. LUKE SHAEFER
*Authors of*

**$2.00 A DAY** | Living on Almost Nothing In America

**TUESDAY, FEB. 7 | 7–9:00PM**
**RACKHAM AUDITORIUM**
915 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor

*Doors open at 6 PM. The event includes a book signing with books available for sale. For more information, please visit **WRead.org**.*

## Spring into Action with JFS... Save these Dates!

**Join Us for a Fun Family Event.**

JFS KIDS CARE FAIR

Sunday, March 26, 2017 • 3:00-5:00 p.m.
At Temple Beth Emeth • Performance by Wild Swan Theatre
Register here: www.jfsannarbor.org/kids-care-fair

**Support JFS in Inspiring Humanity!**

Dinner with the Family

April 21-23, 2017
**JFS is seeking hosts for Dinner with the Family!**
Contact Laurie at lcohen@jfsannarbor.org
or call 734-769-0209 Ext. 353

Also

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
JUNE 11, 2017

June 11, 2017– 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Mendelsohn Theater at U of M
**Featuring a PhotoVoices Exhibit**
To purchase tickets: www.jfsannarbor.org/festival-of-lights
Contact Laurie Cohen, lcohen@jfsannarbor.org,
734-769-0209 Ext. 353

**Older Adults - Support Group**
This monthly support group, for caregivers of older adults, meets the 1st Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at JFS.
For more information, contact Leah Zaas,
leahz@jfsannarbor.org, 734-769-0209 Ext. 357

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
The Herb Amster Center, A Division of Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
carf — Case Management/Services Coordination: Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health, Employee Development Services
Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
United Way of Washtenaw County
Office of Community & Economic Development — Collaborative solutions for a promising future
2245 S. State Street • Suite 200 • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**To make a gift to Jewish Family Services, go to www. jfsannarbor.org/donate**

# Temple Beth Emeth February events

*SooJi Minn, special to the* WJN

### *Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service*

**Fridays, February 3, 10, and 17, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary**
**Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services with Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut, 5:45 p.m.**
**Dinner for Tot Shabbat, 6:15 p.m.**
**Shira Service, 6:45 p.m.**

All of your favorite songs led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston.

Join us for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

### *Shabbat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together for 1-5 grades*

**Fridays, February 3, 10, and 17, TBE Chapel, 5:45 p.m.**

Starting in February, TBE will be introducing a series of interactive events for children in first through fifth grades that will take place in the Chapel running parallel to Tot Shabbat. Rotating activities will include: Shabbat themed singing, crafts, yoga, and an age-specific service lead by Rabbi Josh. Sponsored by the Year of Torah Fund.

### *Shabbat Achat/One Shabbat*

**Friday, February 24, TBE Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.**
**Dinner for Shabbat Achat, 6 p.m.**

Don't miss out on our first Shabbat Achat service for the entire community! All ages – come one come all for One Shabbat led by Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut. We will hold Shabbat Achat on the last Friday of each month. Join us for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately preceding the new service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

### *Shabbat Torah Study*

**Saturdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25, TBE Chapel, 8:50 a.m.**

Join Rabbi Whinston for text study and discussion of the week's Torah Portion.

### *Chapel Service*

**Saturday, February 4, 11, 18, and 25, TBE Chapel, 10 a.m.**

Join Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut for a short Shabbat morning service in the TBE Chapel.

### *Learner's Pre-Service*

**Friday, February 3, TBE Sanctuary, 7:10 p.m.**

Come join us for final learner's pre-services session. Each session explores one aspect of TBE's Friday night Shabbat service.

### *Shalom Gever/Jewish Karate*

**Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 4 p.m.**
**Fridays, February 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 4 p.m.**

Health, Healing and Self-Defense

Try out this unique martial arts instruction including lessons in how to live a healthy lifestyle, be energetic, do well in school and learn anti-bullying self-defense. 12-week semesters for belt advancement. Drop-in when schedules permit. Enrollment is open for students and their parents. Shalom Gever is taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck, 5th Degree Black Belt and martial arts instructor for 19 years. Contact the Temple Beth Emeth office at (734) 665-4744 or Rabbi Gluck, info@shalomgever.org, for more registration information.

### *Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit*

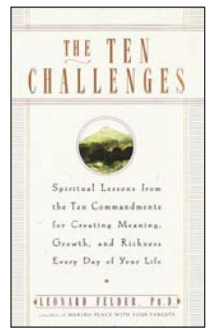
**Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, 1:30 p.m., TBE Chapel**

For practitioners of all levels. Intention and instruction followed by 30-minute silent meditation. Facilitated by SooJi Min, Judy Freedman, and Quyen Epstein-Ngo. SooJi Min is TBE's executive director. She completed a 16-month mindfulness teacher training program sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and the Awakened Heart Project. Judy Freedman has been practicing meditation for over 20 years. She attended a three-year training in Jewish Meditation sponsored by the Philips Foundation at Chochmat ha Lev. Quyen Epstein-Ngo is a therapist who holds a joint doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and Women's Studies. One of the areas she specializes in is working with adolescents, adults, and couples on issues of faith and spirituality. Contact SooJi Min with questions, (734) 665-4744.

### *Spirituality Book Club 2016-17*

**Tuesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.**
**Thursday, February 23, 12:30 p.m.**

Led by Annie Rose, TBE's cantor emerita.




Please join us for the new season of TBE's Spirituality Book Club! This year we will be reading three books over the course of nine months. Please feel free to come to our Tuesday night sessions or our Thursday afternoon sessions. Registration is not required, but it is helpful to our planning to know how many people may come: cantorannie@gmail.com

The discussion for February will a continuation of *The Ten Challenges,* by Leonard Felder

### *Men's Torah Study*

**Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.**

A men's Torah discussion group will be led monthly by Rabbi Whinston on the 4th Monday. This year the group is taking a closer look at the Talmud. Participants will find their way as men by wrestling with text. For more information, contact Bill Parkus at parkus@comcast.net.

### *Woman's Torah Study*

**Mondays, February 13 and 27, 7 p.m.**

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org.

# Shaking up Shabbat

*SooJi Min, special to the* WJN

Starting in February, Friday nights at Temple Beth Emeth are going to look a little different. "We've had for many years a hugely successful Tot Shabbat," says Rabbi Josh Whinston. "A part of that success has meant that our families with young children aren't interacting with our families with no children and those who attend our 7:30 p.m. service. I have been hearing from both groups an interest in bridging that divide."

The biggest change is the introduction of one congregational service held on the fourth Friday of the month. Instead of a separate tot Shabbat and a traditional service, there will be one Shabbat service called Shabbat Achat—one community Shabbat—beginning at 6:30 p.m. on February 24. "There will be music from our temple band and extra space on our sanctuary floor for people to move around, to have more of a physical prayer experience and get their bodies involved," says Whinston. "The service will be upbeat, lots of fun and about an hour long."

Tot Shabbat dinner will be held at 6 p.m.—with the old favorites of mac and cheese and fishsticks for $5 per meal for all ages. Then the Shabbat Achat service will be the only Shabbat service for the evening.

Temple member David Ostreicher and his family are really looking forward to the new service. Says, Ostreicher, "One night as we were rushing out of Tot Shabbat to get home for our children's bedtime, we happened to meet our adult cousins coming into the temple for the evening service. It was then that Rabbi Whinston's recent comments of wanting to bring the entire congregational community together really hit home. Since then, we have brought our children to some of the temple events that allowed us to meet our bedtime ritual, and noticed each and every time the delight that having young children around brought to the faces of fellow congregants."

Another Friday night service for lower elementary children in grades first through fifth is also being added to the Shabbat evening lineup. With the exception of the fourth Friday of each month, TBE will hold a Shabbat b'Yachad—Shabbat Together—service parallel to Tot Shabbat from 5:45-6:15 p.m.

Says Rabbi Whinston, "I think that kids in elementary school age are often left out of Shabbat programming. We will run a parallel track to Tot Shabbat with rotating Shabbat experiences. They will be prayerful but not necessarily a Shabbat service."

The rotating Shabbat b'Yachad lower elementary services will include yoga, music, crafts, and Torah. TBE will bring in instructors from the TBE community and existing religious school staff with the intent of reinforcing the relationships and connections between the school, youth programming, and religious services. Support for the new program is provided by TBE's Year of Torah fund. Visit the TBE website at templebethemeth.org for a full schedule of programs and services. ■

### *Baby Shabbat Play Group*

**Saturday, February 3, 10:45 a.m.**

Noreen De Young, former director of JCC early childhood Center, will be introducing Jewish stories and songs at the beginning of all sessions! Shabbat Baby Group will be a great place for parents to meet and get to know one another. Sponsored by the Year of Torah Fund.

### *WTBE Fiber Arts Group*

**Thursdays, February 9 and 23, 7–9 p.m.**

Anyone interested in Fiber Arts: knitting, crocheting, and crafts are welcome. Meet new people and have fun with the Women of TBE! Contact Bobbi Heilveil for details at (734) 276-5741 or bobbiheilveil@gmail.com.

### *Brotherhood Annual Blood Drive*

**Saturday, February 4, 8:45 a.m.–2:45 p.m.**

Come to TBE and contribute to the blood drive.

### *Building Teens of Character: Jewish Wisdom for Perplexed Parents*

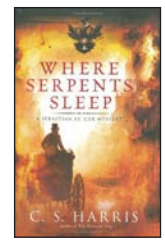
**Sunday, February 12, 6 –7:30 p.m.**

This workshop will address some of the key challenges we face as parents of modern teenagers, using insights drawn from Jewish tradition as a springboard for discussion. Presented by: Ruth Moscow-Cohen, L.M.S.W.

### *(Not Your Usual) TBE Game Day | Drop In*

**Monday, February 20, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., TBE Social Hall**

Calling All Gamers! Bring Yourself/Family, Bring Your Favorite Board/Card Game, Bring a Snack to Share. RSVP to SooJi Min, sjmin@templebethemeth.org.




### *WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group*

**Monday, February 20, 12:30–2 p.m., TBE Library**

The book club is sponsored by the Women of TBE. The book for this month is C.S. Harris, *Where Serpents Sleep*. Contact Mollie Lindner for details at (734) 358-7180 or burnham@umich.edu. ■

At Priceless Preservation,
We Preserve and Improve Your
Priceless Family Mementoes

BEFORE

AFTER

Photos•Films•Scrapbooks•Audio•Video•Negatives
WE DIGITIZE THEM ALL
All Work Done Locally•Photo Restorations•Printing

Priceless Preservation
122 South Main Street Suite 110C
Ann Arbor MI
734-219-3916
pricelesspreservation.com

priceless preservation
photos • film • slides • audio • video

M.O.S.A. Hearing Centers
a division of Michigan Otolaryngology Surgery Associates

- Competitive pricing
- Hearing aids and service
- Five years free adjustments

*For a **free online hearing test** and a **free guide to hearing aids**, visit:*
**mosaaudiology.com**

(800) 851-6672

for adult and pediatric patients

**Part of the U-M Premier Care Network**
Most other insurance coverages accepted.

Hear when you need us.

Ann Arbor/Ypsi | Brighton | Canton | Chelsea | Saline



# February activities at Beth Israel

*Elliot Sorkin, special to the* WJN

### *The Music of Independent Minyanim*

**February 26, 7–8:30 p.m.**

This event introduces the new style of highly participatory synagogue music that is sweeping it way throughout the world in emerging spiritual communities. It is presented by Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz, a popular lecturer on the subjects of Jewish music and musicology. He has edited seven books about Jewish music, including *B'kol Echad; In One Voice*. A native of Detroit, he currently serves as the cantor of Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff, New York.

**Jeffrey Shiovitz**

### *World Wide Wrap*

**February 5, 9:30 a.m.**

This event, sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, encourages Conservative and Masorti congregations throughout the world to come together one morning a year to celebrate the mitzvah of putting on *tefillin*. There will be a short lesson on the putting on of *tefillin* followed by a Shaharit service and concluding with a bagels and lox brunch. Beth Israel is known for its Polar Bear photo of *tefillin* clad participants taken each year outside the building, regardless of the weather.

Extra sets of *tefillin* will be available for people who do not have their own to use, with volunteers to teach men and women how to lay *tefillin*. For additional information, call or e-mail Haran Rashes at (734) 660-9283 or email haran@umich.edu.

### *Shabbat Limmud.*

**Saturdays, February 4 and February 25, 9–9:45 a.m.**

Held before Shabbat morning services, these sessions, with coffee and cake, offer lively discussions on Parashat Hashavua, the Torah portion of the week or other texts. Led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin.

### *Lunch & Learn Series*

**Wednesdays, February 15**
**Lunch and Laugh Series**
**February 22 and March 1**
**Noon–1:15 p.m.**

Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw)

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal lead informal discussions on current topics. The sessions on February 22 and March 1 will focus on the theme of humor as the holiday of Purim draws closer. These sessions will feature selections from Rabbi Dobrusin's extensive collection of humor in video, audio and print form: Dick Van Dyke, Marx Brothers, *I Love Lucy*, and Allan Sherman to just name a few Participants are invited to bring a dairy lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

### *Carlebach and Chicken Soup*

**Friday, February 17, 2016**
**6 p.m. Carlebach Friday Night Service (no charge, of course)**
**7:15 p.m. Chicken Soup Shabbat Dinner**

Participants enjoy lots of communal singing utilizing the lively and soulful melodies mostly composed by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. The Kabbalat Shabbat Service will be led by Eileen Freed, and the Maariv Service will be led by Elliot Sorkin. There is no charge, of course, to attend the service. A Shabbat meal follows with a Chicken Soup Bar (vegetarian soup option); matzah balls, kreplach (dumplings with ground meat), rice, noodles, soup chicken, carrots, soup nuts, and dessert. The cost of the meal per person is $15, ages 11 and up and $10 ages 4 and up. Reserve in advance by sending a check to Beth Israel.

### *Tot Shabbat*

**Saturdays, February 11 and 25., 11:15 a.m.**

Tot Shabbat is a Saturday morning program/service for parents and their children 2—5 years old which includes songs, stories, and prayers. It includes songs, the mysterious "Shabbat Box," a Torah procession with stuffed Torah toys, and a Kiddush for tots. There is no charge for this program.

### *Winter Fun Night*

**February 25, 7:30 p.m.**
**2010 Washtenaw (Garfunkel-Schteingart Activities Center)**

Beth Israel Women's League and Men's Club are offering an evening of games–Euchre, Trivial Pursuit, Mah Jong, Poker, and Scrabble and other fun activities to support the service learning activities of Beth Israel's teens. Contact Renee Bock for more information, reneemariebock@gmail.com. Desserts will be served and a cash-bar will be available. Tickets are $20 per person.

### *Beth Israel blood drive*

**Sunday, March 26, 9:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m.**

Saving a life is one of the most important *mitzvot* in Judaism. One of the ways to perform this mitzvah is to schedule an appointment to donate blood at the blood drive. To register for an appointment, volunteers are asked to go to www.redcrossblood.org; when searching for a blood drive, volunteers should use the sponsor code "bic13" to find the Beth Israel drive.

If volunteers experience a problem, or have no time to register online, they may contact Amy Abrams-Blakemore at (734) 649-1608 or amy.abrams.blakemore@gmail. They should give their full name, phone number, and range of time to be scheduled (e.g around 11a.m.) They will get an email back with the time that they have been scheduled.

Persons who cannot donate blood are asked to volunteer to help pass out refreshments or help with the check in on the drive day. Contact Amy to volunteer for those kinds of duties.

### *All programs open to general community*

All of Beth Israel's events, educational offerings, and recreational programs are open to the general community. If you would like further information, call (734) 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org, or Beth Israel's Facebook page. ■

# This month at the Jewish Cultural Society

*Barb Banet, special to the* WJN

### *First Friday Shabbat (JCS)*

**February 3, 6:30–9 p.m. at the JCC**

All are invited to join the JCS in welcoming Shabbat with secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Dinner will follow the short observance. Children

are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Register online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat/

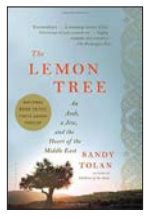
### *March on Washington—Past and Present*

**February 5, 10 a.m.-noon at the JCC**

On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for a political rally known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. That

March was one of the largest political rallies for human rights in United States history and demanded civil and economic rights for African Americans. On January 21, 2017, the Women's March on Washington brought 500,000 folks to the same location. The Women's March grew out of the organizers' concern that the past election cycle resulted in the marginalization of many groups in our country, including women, LGBTWIA, and people of color, as well as others. This March will have been a first step toward unifying communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up.

Join JCS members, as well as others in the community who attended either the 1963 March or the 2017 March, to hear their reflections on these experiences. This event will take place on February 5 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. It is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested at info@jewishculturalsociety.org.




### *JCS Book Club*

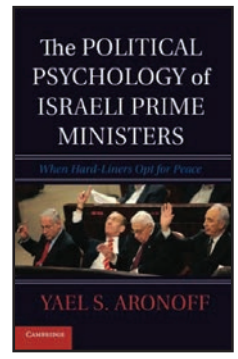
**February 26, 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC.**

All are invited to join the JCS Book Club for a discussion of *The Lemon Tree*, by Sandy Tolan. Everyone is welcome to attend whether they are a member of the book club or not. ■


M | LSA FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Frankel Events

**February 2017**




### "The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime-Ministers"

February 7, 4:10 PM-5:40 PM
*2022 Thayer, 202 S. Thayer*

Yael Aronoff, Michigan State University

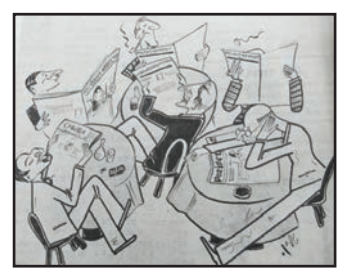
### Jewishness and Modernist Fiction

February 14, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM
*2022 Thayer, 202 S. Thayer*

Walter Cohen, University of Michigan

### Wieseneck Symposium: "Multilingualism in Israeli Literature"

February 16, 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM
*Rackham Graduate School (Horace H.)*



Maya Barzilai, University of Michigan
Naomi Brenner, Ohio State University
Adriana Jacobs, University of Oxford
Yael Kenan, University of Michigan
Lital Levy, Princeton University
Alex Moshkin, University of Pennsylvania
Shachar Pinsker, University of Michigan
Rachel Seelig, University of Chicago

*All events are free and open to the public. If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, please call at least two weeks prior to the event.*

LSA.UMICH.EDU/JUDAIC • JUDAICSTUDIES@UMICH.EDU • 734.763.9047



**Got Stuff?**
**We can help!**
encore ONLINE RESALE
**Let Encore Sell It For You:**
Electronics • Musical Instruments
Designer Items • Antiques & Collectibles
Sterling Silver • Sporting Goods
Camera & Audio/Visual Equipment
**1958 South Industrial**
(in the Colonial Lanes Plaza)
**734.761.6187**
**EncoreOnlineResale.com**
ebay REGISTERED drop off location



*A Place Somewhere Bed and Breakfast*
*Corinne & Bob Opiteck*
*196 William Street*
*Stratford, ON N5A 4Y3*
*(519)273-2157*
*somewhere@dsemail.com*
*www.somewherebb.com*
*10% Discount for Theatre goers!*

There are many ways **to be Jewish.**

**Explore them all, daily, with our free newsletter.**
Sign up at *forward.com/enjoy*



**Susan Ayer**
**PHOTOGRAPHY**
*When you only have one chance to catch that special moment*

SPECIALIZING IN: BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, FAMILY PORTRAITS, CHILDREN, FAMILY CELEBRATIONS, DIGITAL IMAGING, BUSINESS RECEPTIONS
**734.546.0426**
**susan@susanayerphotography.com**
**susanayerphotography.com**

# Youth service-learning at Kids Care Fair

*Laurie Cohen, special to the* WJN

Because today's kids who care are tomorrow's leaders" is the theme of the Kids Care Fair hosted by Jewish Family Services (JFS). This event will take place on Sunday March 26 from 3–5 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor and will engage and energize children and youth in the community about service and giving back.

Several activities are planned at the event, including a food pantry scavenger hunt; disability awareness and sensitivity activities; a musical instrument petting zoo; reading nook and story-time; and multiple themed arts and crafts stations, focusing on values such as gratitude, "welcoming the stranger," and kindness to older adults. JFS is thrilled to be partnering with many local community organizations to deliver this important event.

The event's activities are designed for children ages 2-10 and their families, but there is an additional layer of service-learning for "the big kids." Older community youth from local organizations are themselves planning, organizing and executing activity stations at the Kids Care Fair. In addition to the many hands-on activities at the Kids Care Fair, the event will feature a special performance by Wild Swan Theater, one of the nation's most admired professional theaters for families.

**Last year's Kids Care Fair provided hands-on activities including emergency preparedness, cultural sensitivity and disability awareness, and a teddy bear triage.**

Tickets are on sale now with all proceeds benefitting JFS family programs. Tickets are $25 per family or $50 for a host family. No family will be turned away due to an inability to pay. Sliding scale tickets are readily available online at the time of registration. For more information about the JFS Kids Care fair and to register, visit www.jfsannarbor.org/kids-care-fair. Any teens or community partners interested in learning more about participating in the Kids Care Fair as activity partners or volunteers should emails programs@jfsannarbor.org. ■

# Open Enrollment at the ECC

*Peretz Hirshbein, special to the* WJN

The Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center will be accepting new applications for childcare and pre-school programs for the 2016–2017 school year beginning Monday, February 15. First priority is given for siblings of currently enrolled ECC children. Applications from families of JCC affiliate organizations (TBE, BIC, HDS, JCS, etc.) have second priority, followed by applications from the general public.

The ECC offers programs for children ages two months to five years in specially designed learning environments suited for each specific age group. Infant rooms are warm and intimate environments, in which caregivers provide babies with the individualized routines they need. Toddler rooms are safe and reassuring spaces in which both the teachers and the environment can challenge these autonomy-hungry children. Preschool rooms are full of stimulating experiences, where children learn not only from their teachers, but also from each other. The ECC's teachers provide a responsive curriculum that allows them to challenge and nurture children at all developmental levels. Language and literacy, math, science, social studies, and physical development are combined with Jewish celebrations and values to create an integrated curriculum. Healthy living is promoted through the JCC's Discover CATCH program.

For more information about the JCC Early Childhood Center, contact Early Childhood Director Peretz Hirshbein at (734) 971-0990 or ecc@jccannarbor.org. ■

# Plant a tree in Israel and enter to win a trip to Israel

Jewish National Fund (JNF-USA) is celebrating Tu B'Shvat by giving one lucky winner the chance to travel to Israel and have a once in a lifetime experience for free! Anyone can enter to win this special prize by planting a tree with the organization—a fitting way to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees.

When participants plant a tree through jnf.org, or by calling (800) 542-8733, between February 1, 2017 and February 11, 2017, at 11:59:59 p.m. ET, they will be entered to win the grand prize of a free round-trip ticket to Israel, courtesy of EL AL Airlines, a free two-night stay with breakfasts at the Carlton Tel Aviv, and two VIP tickets to the national Jerusalem Day ceremony at Ammunition Hill on May 24. While in Israel, the sweepstakes winner will have the opportunity to plant a tree with their own hands at the JNF-Harvey Hertz Ceremonial Tree Planting Center at Neot Kedumim, the world's only biblical landscape reserve. Ten runners-up will win a free JNF E-Z Tree™ account of ten trees.

Tu B'Shvat, celebrated this year on February 11, embodies the abiding dedication to ecology, environmentalism, and conservation that JNF has always championed. Over the years, Tu B'Shvat has taken on the theme of planting trees in Israel, creating a special connection to JNF.

There is no purchase necessary to take part in the JNF Tu BiShvat Sweepstakes. You may enter by filling out a downloadable PDF at jnf.org/tbsweepstakes and mailing your entry to: JNF Tu Bishvat Sweepstakes, c/o Jewish National Fund, Attn: Isaac Heger, 42 E. 69th St., New York, NY 10021. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by February 11, 2017and received by end of business day on February 15, 2017. Limit one entry per mailing envelope. Drawing will take place on or about February 16, 2017.

# What color is your question?

*Lisa Bernstein, special to the* WJN

Since early childhood, our students have been trained to believe that answers are just a click away. Yet, as many of us know, Jewish tradition often values questions as much as it does answers. For example, among the first rituals a Jewish child learns is that of reciting the Four Questions at the Passover seder; and in fact the entire seder is organized in a way that is designed to elicit questions upon questions. Similarly, when we study Rashi's commentary on Torah, we begin by trying to figure out: "What, exactly, was Rashi's question?" And of course, Jews are known to answer a question with a question!

Kitah Gimel/Dalet (the 3rd/4th grade class) is learning about the usefulness of asking questions as they engage the texts from the Nevi'im—the prophets. In this study, it is important that as the students explore these sources they not only learn familiar stories about biblical characters like Joshua, Deborah, and King Solomon, but that they develop the skills necessary to engage in rich and meaningful textual study—study that is driven by thoughtful questions.

Thanks to a session at the NewCAJE (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education) conference I attended this past summer, I found a way to meet both of these goals. I attended a session titled "Lenses of Questioning: Helping Students Think Critically," led by Batsheva Frankel. Frankel explained that she created the Lenses of Questioning method "to help students formulate strong and varied questions leading to more meaningful explorations of texts and topics." "Engaging in the Lenses approach," she explained, "creates a strong buy-in for students, and more focused learning." The six kinds of questions she identified help to stretch students' analytic skills and lead to deeper thinking.

**HDS third/fourth graders in the questioning glasses**

In adapting Batsheva's method to our classroom, we use the following categories to analyze stories from the Nevi'im:

- ORANGE questions ask for information, data, or facts.
- RED questions focus on feelings and emotions.
- YELLOW questions focus on best-case scenarios, hopes, and benefits.
- PURPLE questions focus on risks, problems, and weaknesses.
- BLUE questions ask about the big picture—a summary, theme, or goal.
- GREEN questions ask for creativity—these are the "what-ifs" and questions that seek alternative solutions.

Since being introduced to the method—and after making "glasses" with different colored lenses—students have had a variety of opportunities to ask questions based on the stories. Sometimes, they work alone, sometimes in small groups. Sometimes, they write six questions—one question for each color. Sometimes they write many questions for a single color. Sometimes they roll a die with colors instead of dots, and they write a question that corresponds with the color of the roll! Each color, each category of question, invites students to think about the text in a different way. One student remarked: "Orange is my least favorite to do because it's the easiest and there's only one answer!" Others agreed that the green ones are the most interesting! Even young children know that comprehension is only the first layer to understanding.

So, what are some of the questions the children have asked?

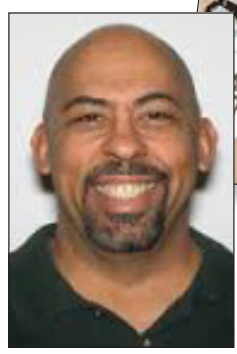
- What did Deborah tell Barak about helping him?
- How did Rahav feel when the wall of Jericho fell?
- What did Joshua hope would happen when they blew the shofarot?
- What risks did Yael take in order to help the Israelites?
- What was the point of the story of God calling to Samuel?
- What would have happened if the guards found the spies Joshua sent into Jericho?

The students have the opportunity to answer the questions posed by their classmates; yet they are learning that it is the question that is key. Students are learning what it means to ask questions of the text. They are becoming critical thinkers through the use of this method. As Batsheva Frankel said, "The more we as teachers understand and model using different categories of inquiry, the better we all can train our and our students' minds to explore every facet of a topic or idea. This leads to deeper critical thinking skills and imaginative observations, which are crucial to our students as they explore Jewish texts, rituals, philosophical and theological ideas in an increasingly mature fashion, as they discover and solidify their Jewish identity." These are certainly worthwhile goals for our students at HDS, and it is a great pleasure to work alongside the children as they endeavor to achieve them. ■

# An unlikely Phoenix: from slums to success

*Rachel Urist, staff writer*

Keith L.T. Alexander is a Jewish, African-American Ann Arborite. He is a member of Beth Israel Congregation, where he attends services faithfully. He is also the author of a memoir, *Forgery of the Month Club,* which is both sensational and shockingly scandalous. It's a great read, given its honest, engaging, intelligent, and surprisingly comprehensive account of his Chicago childhood. He and his older sister, Lin, raised by their white, single Jewish mother, Anita, were the products of a mixed-race union. Their father was a married, African-American man who remained absent from his children.


**Keith L.T. Alexander**

Anita, an iconoclast who abhorred the idea of a regular job, was a consummate con artist. She was brilliant, resourceful, and skillful. She moved from one scam to another as her moods and interests shifted. She outsmarted everyone. The only real family her children knew was the one she created of society's outcasts, including drug-users and thieves. These folks became Keith's "aunts and uncles," the people he could count on. They visited, baby-sat, brought friends, and loved the children dearly. But they rarely left without stealing from their hosts. Still, they were family of choice and always welcome.

The author writes:

> *According to Uncle Joshua …. [cops] just loved to beat us up, steal our money, call us 'queer' and 'fairy.' 'Kill a queen,' they'd cry, and rush at you in gangs. It was sport for them and stressful for us. So we did drugs to calm us down. We had to keep a low profile, stay to ourselves and devise special codes. When I yelled 'The Tilly's out,' it meant that uniformed police were cruising the neighborhood.*

Uncle Joshua often took the children out for ice cream. Keith recalls: "*When he ignored the stares of bigoted customers who were stunned to see a young white man buying ice cream cones for two black kids, we felt loved.*" Another member of the "family was Uncle Frannie, who

> *… was trained to be a thief practically from infancy. Before he turned five, his mother had him stealing dresses for her from dime stores, and defrauding bingo parlors with fake Bingo cards. By the age of fourteen, stealing had become an automatic reflex for Frannie. He was a veteran shoplifter with a genius IQ who loved the excitement of outwitting the square world.*

Meals in Keith's house consisted of "whatever there is." The refrigerator was usually bare. Keith's sister had wealthy school friends; she ate most of her meals with them. Keith scraped by as he could. Loyal son that he was, and desperate to keep what little the family had, he helped his mother when and where he could. She resisted asking him to do anything illegal. That policy ended in his early adolescence.

Over the years, her schemes included stealing then selling bicycles; bilking mail-order companies out of oodles of merchandise; forging paintings (she turned out to be a remarkable artist—and forger); and petty theft. In researching the memoir, Alexander heard from a cousin that his mother, while a college student, acted out "by sneaking into Hadassah meetings, running off with the members' fur coats and selling them."

Some of her projects were decidedly eccentric. Having persuaded a bank that she was solvent (a task that took ingenuity, research and forgery), she got a mortgage, bought the ramshackle house she fancied, and soon began envisioning a castle in the back yard. She became obsessed and started collecting stones from the neighborhood. Her son helped. He dug the foundation, mixed the mortar, set the stones, and built the spiral staircase for the tower. The castle became a reality—and a neighborhood landmark.

Equally outlandish was her decision to scrape off and collect the gold from a gilded statue of Alexander Hamilton in a neighborhood park. "*That the statue was of a Republican made him an attractive mark, too,' said Mom. 'They're always skinning the public, why not skin them back?*" The statue was lit by six huge spotlights. "*Whether I could get away with it never entered my mind," Mom said. "I had no doubt I would succeed.*" After planning her operation, she composed a list of the tools she'd need.

> *Mom wandered into a downtown hardware store and made her way to the box wrenches dangling on a rack. She shoved four of the wrenches into her sleeve and strolled out. Over the next two days she stole 22 more lightweight wrenches from three hardware stores. She pinched 100 feet of mountain climbing rope, two rolls of black electrical tape, and a roll of fishing line, a red rubber ball, bottle of black shoe polish, and a heavy-duty sewing needle. She also boosted a box of single-edged razor blades (they dulled quickly).*

We soon learn the purpose for each of these items. We also learn that she discovered how to change the timer on the spotlights, so she could work under cover of darkness. As she scraped, she painted the statue's stripped areas with gold paint. One night, as she scraped, a policeman approached her. She launched into her cover story. The officer found himself in conversation with her. Eventually, he left. She completed her mission, melted the precious flakes of metal into a golden nugget, and lived to laugh about it.

At one point in her career, she went straight. Ironically, she did so by creating an enterprise called "Forgery of the Month Club." This began after she discovered that she had artistic talent. She offered forgeries of famous paintings. People chose paintings they wanted, ordered forgeries, and she filled the orders. People paid well for them. But eventually, because business became so good, the work became burdensome, like a 9-5 job. She gave up the enterprise and returned to petty theft.

She was brave, unorthodox, outrageous, clever, and ferociously self-sufficient. She used pseudonyms, changed her address, and avoided discovery. Determined to be neither dependent nor beholden to her children's father, she "identified" him with a false name on hospital forms after giving birth. She did not want him traced. She had learned that he was the son of an abusive father. She wanted none of that for her children. She did call him, however, when Keith misbehaved. Skipping school and stealing were deemed misdemeanors. At such times, she called the father to come teach the son a lesson. Those beatings occurred with regularity during Keith's youth. Other than that, the dad was unreachable and unreliable. He lived with his wife in an upscale part of town. When he and Keith were slated to meet for outings, he often stood his son up.

Given this background, it is astounding that Keith Alexander became a well-educated, upstanding citizen and devoted father. When he decided to write this memoir, he requested his mother's cooperation. She consented—which, no doubt, explains why the many details are recorded with such precision and follow a clear sequence. She may have been irreverent, but she had a photographic memory and she loved her son.

Today, Keith Alexander lives in Ann Arbor. He holds an MBA from the University of Wisconsin, an MFA (Conceptual Art) from the University of California (1993), and a BA (Sculpture) from the University of Illinois at Chicago (1983). As an undergraduate, he was a Student Senator. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with Departmental Distinction and a separate commendation for suggesting that CPR be made a requirement for graduation.

Despite the absence of any good, paternal role model, Keith somehow learned to be a loving and devoted father to his daughter, now 15. In the memoir, he describes her infancy as a terrifying period of hospitalizations. She has endured more than her share. But to her father, she's perfect.

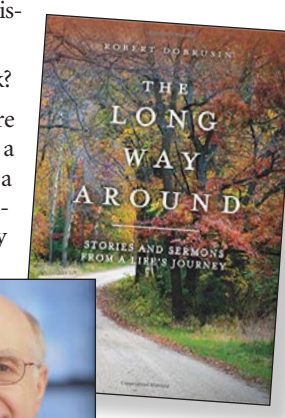
To prospective readers, note this caveat: Alexander deserved a better editor. Certain grammatical flaws are glaring. A copy-editor might have corrected them. Nevertheless, the picaresque narrative, alive with color and spirit, arrests attention. This is an adventure worth taking. It offers a glimpse into the lives of people in society's nether regions. It also shows the power of love and what smarts and resilience can accomplish. Finally, Alexander's memoir, available on Amazon, has a limited circulation. But he has already adapted it to screen. The screenplay continues to evolve. It holds great promise. ■

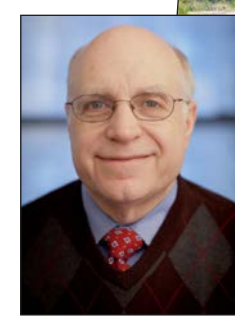


# Rabbi Dobrusin tells his story

*San Slomovits, staff writer*

*The Long Way Around* is Rabbi Robert Dobrusin's first book. Although the longtime spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel has written countless sermons over the years, in this book he combines some of those sermons with stories of his life, family, and interests. Our talk about the book was filled with Rabbi Dobrusin's typical blend of humor, wisdom and humility.





**Rabbi Dobursin**

**WJN:** When did you start writing this book?

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** It actually started more than 15 years ago. When I first had a sabbatical I decided I wanted to write a book. I spent a few months of my sabbatical, back in 1999, taking some of my old sermons and tried to expand them a little, and it just wasn't working. It was fun, it was a good experience, but it wasn't working. So I put it aside and said, well it's not going to happen. Then I had some time to think about why it didn't work. I talked to a few people, and came to the conclusion that my sermons really reflect a lot of who I am. So I started to come up with this idea of pairing stories of my life with the sermons that, I think, came out of them. That was five, six years ago, and I liked what I had, but then other things came up and I put it aside and, as with so many other people, the book sat in my computer. And then a year and a half ago I just decided I was either going to do it or not, and was able to find somebody to edit it with me, who helped me tremendously, and I got some good feedback from people with whom I shared individual chapters, and decided to do it. It took effort, but I had a lot of support and encouragement too, from my wife, certainly. Ellen was, "You've got to do this!"

**WJN:** You have stories of your childhood. How do they relate to your sermons?

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** I write a lot about my mother, who was not a very religious person, but was very much obsessed with the idea of being good. It was a very big thing for her, not in a self-righteous way, but more, what are people thinking of you? One of her favorite lines was, "Were they mad at you?" or, "It would mean the world to them if you did this." I've given several sermons, in fact I gave one just this Yom Kippur, where the theme was the importance of goodness, of compassion and kindness within Judaism. To me, that comes from the piece of me that is from my mother—not that my father wasn't a good person, or my teachers—but just the way that she envisioned how our lives should run, to me was a connection to Judaism. Another example; my father loved to spontaneously teach. He was constantly using "teachable moments," before anybody even knew that phrase. So when I think about some of the things I learned from him, it transfers into things I write about.

I think that part of the reason why the book came out now, my father died 15 years ago, my mother died a little more than 10 years ago, and you reach a point where you fix people in your memory and you're able to draw on their lessons a little bit easier than you are right after their death, when you're still grappling with memories and everything.

**WJN:** You and I share a love of baseball, and though we root for different teams, we often talk about that. Is there baseball here?

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** There is baseball. The way the book is structured is that there are chapters in memory of family members, and then there are chapters that have to do with interests of mine, and one of the chapters is about baseball and the lessons that we can learn from it for our life. That may sound

*continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

a little bit pretentious, but you know and I know that baseball is life… (Laughter) When I think about the book I think, "Boy, if there's somebody that doesn't like baseball, they can just skip that chapter." I hope they won't because I think even if you don't know baseball, the sermon will still be meaningful.

**WJN:** Do you have a feeling what you're hoping for with this book?

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** I have a lot of feelings about that. First of all, I fear that in many circles the idea of a sermon is becoming less attractive to people nowadays. We live in an era where we want religion to be a communication, a conversation. Who has time or interest to sit and listen to somebody talk for 20 minutes? It has to be short bursts and it has to come out right away. If something happens in the world, you can't wait till Shabbat morning to speak about it. You have to speak about it on Facebook or put it on a blog. I believe that a well thought out, well crafted and substantive sermon is a tremendous form of communication. One of the things I hope will come out of the book is an appreciation of that. I hope people will say, "Here is something that is not only somebody sharing their ideas, but sharing of themselves".

The substance of the sermons is really important to me. I have a particular approach to Judaism, as does every rabbi, and every rabbi and every individual should share their particular approach. I want to share mine, which is very much connected with the real world, with everyday life, which looks at experiences that we have as opportunities for celebration, for holiness, for deep consideration.

I love reading memoirs, life stories, I like learning about people. I have led by no means the most exciting life in the world, but there's a lot in it, and that's true of everybody. I want people to know more about me, because I want them to think about themselves and say, "Here's a story I could tell." I think my father especially, would have loved the fact that his story is being told.

**WJN:** I think we all hope that our children will remember us, and will be able to use what they learned from us to make their lives better.

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** We talk a lot about ethical wills in our tradition. I have sat down and tried desperately to write a letter to my kids. I did once and I couldn't get through it… that's another reason I did this. God willing, they'll give it to their children and they'll learn about me too.

There are also the substantive Jewish elements of it, separate from the stories. If somebody looked at this book, who didn't know me, and said, "I don't like reading memoirs, but hey, these are interesting sermons," that's fine with me. The messages in the sermons are important. It was important for me that those get out. People may disagree with them, and that's fine too, but that's important Jewishly too.

I talk a lot about the past, a lot more than the present, but I think that's what a memoir is. I can't evaluate the things that are happening in my life now, and I think the reason for that is because you need a bit of perspective on your life before you can really write about what it means.

**WJN:** When you went back and looked at your older sermons, did you think, "Well, I wish I'd said this…"

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** I really didn't change them very much because I realized they reflected where I was at the time. If I gave that same sermon now I would write it differently. But it represented something, which was important at the time. There are a few things—small things, not big—where I say now, "I don't know if I believe this the way that I believed it then." But that's immaterial. I believed it then. To me that's an important piece of this, that it's kind of frozen in time a little bit, for all of us.

**WJN:** What haven't we talked about which is important to you about this book?

**Rabbi Dobrusin:** There's nothing about my life that makes it worthy of a book any more than anybody else's. We all should tell the story of our lives. I've had stuff happen to me, we all have, but growing up in freedom, growing up in comfort, I've had many, many advantages; the struggles that I've had have been minor ones for the most part. So when I write about things that might seem trivial, especially if somebody had a life, God forbid, which was full of difficulty, conflict or danger, I didn't have that and so I'm finding the meaning in the simple things, in the small conflicts.

I talk about this in the book, I talk about growing up and the conflicts that I felt, again in those small ways, and how some of them are still going on. One of the points I make is that we're all adolescents in a way, and if we ever get to the point where we think we have it all figured out, we're in trouble. (Laughter) That's a Jewish concept, and it's a psychological one for me too. Some things I've figured out, but a lot of things I haven't. I want my kids to know that we don't always figure everything out. And we shouldn't always figure everything out.

I hope if people read the book that they ask themselves about their own experiences. If you read the pages about my father and you start to think about your father, and what he would have done… that to me is the goal of this book. It's not only about me, it's about what people will take out of their own lives and then find their ways to speak about it, to teach about it. It's about Judaism, it's about faith, and it's about the lessons contained in the sermons. And it's about how each of us tells our story.

I've already heard from a couple of people who've said, "Gee, I think I grew up in your family." (Laughter) We joke about this here. Rabbi Blumenthal and I show bits of video from our bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah parties to the kids before their bar or bat mitzvah, and invariably a parent or grandparent will say, "Wait a minute, that looks like my party!"

The goal is to say to people, "This is what you should do," whether it's a book or not. We should be able to be happy and satisfied with what we have produced in this world, and we should be able to share that with other people. ■

*Rabbi Dobrusin will celebrate the release of The Long Way Around with a book signing at Beth Israel Congregation on Sunday, February 12, from 2–4 p.m. The event will take place at the Garfunkel Schteingart Activity Center, 2010 Washtenaw Avenue.*



# Tu B'Shevat fruit crafts

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, is the day that marks the beginning of a "New Year for Trees." This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

Legally, the "New Year for Trees" relates to the various tithes that must be separated from produce grown in the Holy Land. These tithes differ from year to year in the seven-year Shemittah cycle; the point at which a budding fruit is considered to belong to the next year of the cycle is the 15th of Shevat.

We mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "Man is a tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19) and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analogue.

## *Fruit centerpiece*

Design your centerpiece with a large array of flowers along with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Materials:

Container
One or many types of very fresh fruit
Leaves
A small towel or foam pad
Scissors or clippers

• Select a container that will allow the fruits to show and make sure buy enough fruit to fill it generously. For a cheaper alternative, you can stick to inexpensive basics for filling the container. You might see some unusual fruits that you had not thought of, like star fruit, kiwi, or mangoes. If there is something interesting that will enhance your color scheme, buy one or two for accents.

• Find fruit with leaves or cut some greenery from bushes around your home. You'll use these to fill in the gaps between the fruit. Be sure to rinse and dry the leaves before placing them in the arrangement.

Place a small pad or small folded towel in the bottom of your container to protect delicate fruit.

• Carefully arrange the fruits in the container. Save the best looking pieces for the top where they'll show the most. If the pieces do not stay in place, secure them to each other with a few toothpicks.

• Arrange sprigs of leaves between the fruits at all layers and insert some nice sprigs between the fruits on the top.

## *Drying fruits*

Apples: Select firm textured apples. Wash and slice into 1/4 to 1/2 inch slices. Pre-treat with a lemon juice/water solution (1 cup of lemon juice to 1 quart of water) or an Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C) solution to prevent browning. Place slices onto drying rack. Dry fruit in the oven at 135° . When fruit is pliable and there is no sign of moisture it can be stored in airtight bags or jars. After proper drying, apples and pears will keep in a cool, dry place from six months to a year.

Pears: Any variety of pear is suitable for drying. Pears should be ripe. Wash and slice. Pre-treat with lemon/water or ascorbic acid

solution if you like. Dry at 135f until leathery and there is no moisture present. Makes a great, sweet snack. Store carefully in airtight bags or jars. Keep in a cool, dry place.

## *Basic fruit leather*

Pureed fruit can be dried on special, heavy plastic sheets in your electric dehydrator. To prepare apples or fruit for leather making, wash fruit thoroughly, remove seeds, puree in a blender or food processor until smooth. Mixture should be of pouring consistency. It is important to add honey to help keep the leather pliable when dried. If the puree is too thick, add liquid to thin. If too tart, add more honey or sugar. Heat apple or pear mixture to 190° F to prevent oxidization, and cool before pouring onto dehydrator trays.

Coat trays with a layer of fruit puree about 1/8 inch thick. Dry at 135° until leathery. Be careful there are no moisture pockets. Roll up fruit leather while warm, wrap in plastic and store.

*By Chabad.org editors. Reprinted with permission of Chabad.org (http://www.chabad.org/470403).*

# Breakfast treats for Tu B'Shevat

*Mary Bilyeu, staff writer*

We're just a few weeks into a new year—2017.

And yet, another new year is coming at sundown on February 10: Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees.

An environmental and ecological celebration, this is a chance to appreciate and show gratitude for all that our natural world provides.

It is essential, of course, to care for our land, our water, our air, and our trees, which provide shelter, nourishment, oxygen, and beauty.

Most people in aptly-named Ann Arbor need no nudging at Tu B'Shevat to remember to tend the Earth; like Dr. Seuss' Lorax, they already speak for the trees. *Tikkun olam* is practically the city's motto, with recycling, composting, organic foods, fair trade, bike riding, greenbelt initiatives, and a significant number of Priuses (or is that Prii?) all serving as integral pieces of the collective consciousness.

As individuals, we can use this holiday to have trees planted. That mitzvah is a given.

But we can also make new resolutions or recommit to resolutions we've possibly strayed from in the past 30 days or so. (As they say, "If at first you don't succeed ….")

Many people seek to lose weight, although overall health–blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, etc.–should be the goal, rather than clothing sizes.

Others say they're going to eat better–eat clean, eat whole foods, eat less meat, eat more good fats, or eat fewer refined carbohydrates.

One important task that can incorporate all of the above is this: eat breakfast.

This is a resolution that isn't usually thought of. Often, we'll make promises to eat dinner with our family members rather than each person eating at the convenience of his or her schedule. Or we'll strive to bring a wholesome lunch to work instead of grabbing something quick and easy that's often lacking in nutrition.

But breakfast plans get ignored, unappreciated and unloved.

Dinner can be picked up or delivered, in a desperate pinch. But no shop brings bagels or omelettes or yogurt parfaits to your door; you're on your own to make or, at least, somehow assemble some sustenance in the midst of the morning mishigas.

Experts call it the most important meal of the day, but breakfast is the one that comes at the most inconvenient time in that day.

With the following recipes, though–for muffins, a hot cereal, a smoothie, a quick bread, and even crockpot oatmeal that cooks while you sleep - you can keep your resolution to treat yourself to a nutritious breakfast while incorporating the foods associated with this new year.

On Tu B'Shevat, it is customary to eat of the Seven Species—*Shivat Haminim*—listed in Deuteronomy 8:8: wheat, barley, vines/grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives (even in the form of oil), and dates.

Traditions also include eating and enjoying special fruits: those with rinds, those with pits, and those we can consume in their entirety. These breakfast recipes offer a beautiful array, including bananas, cherries, coconuts, and walnuts. And don't forget cinnamon (a tree bark), almond milk, and even a brightening touch of lemon rind.

Enjoy these breakfast recipes, relishing the beautiful bounty that our trees provide.

What better way to celebrate Tu B'Shevat and to start a new year? ■

## Seven Species Muffins

Muffins:

½ cup dates
½ cup dried figs, stems removed
1¼ cups unsweetened almond milk
¼ cup applesauce
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon allspice
2 eggs
1/3 cup light olive oil
½ cup sugar
½ cup brown sugar
1½teaspoons vanilla extract
1½ cups all purpose flour
½ cup barley flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
3/4 cup pomegranate seeds
3/4 cup golden raisins
½ cup chopped walnuts

Topping:
2 tablespoons turbinado sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400°. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners.

Roughly chop dates and figs. Set aside.

Use a blender or food processor to blend together the following ingredients until very smooth: dates, figs, almond milk, applesauce, cinnamon, and allspice. Set mixture aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.

In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, barley flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Gently mix the pomegranate seeds into the dry mixture, making sure the seeds are well coated with flour.

Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients. Pour the fruit mixture from the blender into the well, then add the egg mixture. Mix until the dry ingredients are just moistened and a lumpy batter forms. Do not overmix - if you do your muffins will turn out heavy and dense. Fold raisins and chopped walnuts into the muffin batter.

Divide batter equally into muffin cups, filling each cup to the top and mounding the surface slightly.

Mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl using a fork. Sprinkle about a ½ teaspoon of cinnamon sugar mixture evenly across the surface of each muffin.

Place muffins in the oven and immediately turn heat down to 375°. Bake for 25-27 minutes until the tops of the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin and cooling on a rack.

Yield: 12 muffins

Source: Adapted from toriavey.com

## Warm Barley Cereal with Dried Cherries

1 quart unsweetened almond milk
1 ¼ cups quick-cooking barley
2 tablespoons ground flax meal
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup dried cherries
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 to 3 tablespoons turbinado or brown sugar, plus more for serving (optional)
1 cup fresh raspberries

In a large saucepan, stir together 3-1/2 cups almond milk, barley, flax meal, and salt over medium heat. Bring to a simmer and cook 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in dried cherries and cinnamon and continue cooking, stirring frequently, until cereal is tender and creamy, about 5 minutes more.

Remove from heat and add sugar to taste. Divide among bowls and drizzle remaining 1/2 cup almond milk over top. Serve topped with raspberries and, if desired, additional sugar.

Yield: 4 servings

Source: Adapted from marthastewart.com

## Pomegranate-Banana Smoothie

2 cups plain nonfat yogurt, well chilled
2 cups pure pomegranate juice, well chilled
2 large bananas, thickly sliced crosswise

In a blender, combine the chilled nonfat yogurt with the pomegranate juice. Add the sliced bananas and purée. Pour the smoothie into tall, chilled glasses and serve at once.

Yield: 6 servings

Source: Adapted from foodandwine.com

## Fig, Date, and Walnut Quick Bread

3/4 cup buttermilk
½ teaspoon finely grated lemon rind
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon cloves
2/3 cup chopped dried figs
1/3 cup chopped pitted dates
½ cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons light olive oil
2 large eggs
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoons baking soda
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/3cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease an 8 by 4-inch loaf pan.

Heat first 4 ingredients in a small, heavy saucepan over medium heat just until bubbles begin to form around edge (do not boil). Remove from heat; stir in figs and dates. Let stand 20 minutes or until fruit softens.

Combine sugar, oil, and eggs in a large bowl; stir with a whisk until well blended. Stir in cooled milk mixture and the walnuts.

Lightly spoon flours into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Combine flours, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl; make a well in center of mixture. Add milk mixture to flour mixture, stirring just until moist.

Spoon batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 40 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan on a wire rack; remove from pan. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Yield: 1 loaf

Source: Adapted from cookinglight.com

## Slow Cooker Banana and Coconut Milk Steel-Cut Oatmeal

2 medium ripe bananas, sliced
2 14-ounce cans light coconut milk
½ cup water
1 cup steel cut oats
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1½ tablespoons butter or margarine, cut into 5-6 pieces
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 tablespoon ground flax seed
¼ teaspoon salt

Optional garnishes: additional sliced bananas, chopped macadamia nuts or walnuts, toasted coconut, maple syrup, additional brown sugar, additional coconut milk or butter

Coat inside of 3½ quart (or larger) slow cooker with cooking spray. Add all ingredients (except optional toppings) to slow cooker. Stir, cover, and cook on low for 7 hours. Spoon oatmeal into bowls; add optional toppings, if desired. Store leftovers in refrigerator. Freezes well.

Note: Recipe can be doubled in 6-quart or larger slow cooker. Increase cooking time 1 hour.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Source: Adapted from theyummylife.com

# February 2017

## *Wednesday 1*

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** In conjunction with the bicentennial celebration of the University of Michigan (UM), this exhibit chronicles Jewish life and Judaic and Hebraic studies at the UM from the early 19th century to the first Hebrew language and Hebrew Bible courses in 1890 to the founding of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies in 1988 to the present day. On display are Hebrew grammars, pamphlets, periodicals, and programs on early 20th century Jewish social life at the UM; documents relating to inauguration of Judaic Studies; and a variety of other objects, correspondence, and photos. UM Special Collections Library Exhibit Space, 7th Floor, Hatcher Graduate Library South, 913 South University Avenue. Monday and Wednesday–Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday from 10 a.m.–7:45 p.m. See Thursday, February 2 for related lecture and reception. For information, visit www.lib.umich.edu/events/striving-to-stimulate-serious-thought or email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. *Through February 22.*

**Lunch & Learn: Tiny Lions: JCC.** Have you heard about Ann Arbor's new Cat Café? Located on Jackson Road, at Tiny Lions, customers can enjoy a coffee and snuggle with cats, enjoy the comfortable space while watching cats play, and even adopt cats there. Learn more about how a cat café works and get a sneak peek at upcoming events. For information, contact Rachael at 971-0990 or at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

**Mahj: TBE.** Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew Advanced: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Keshet: TBE.** 6–8:30 p.m.

**Theology Book Club: BIC.** 8 p.m.

## *Thursday 2*

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE.** 1:30–2:15 p.m.

**"But Not the Loud Offensive Type:" UM Library. Karla Goldman, Sol Drachler professor of Social Work and professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan (UM),** speaks about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the UM during the Era of Jewish Admissions Quotas, 1925-1939. Professor Goldman will present evidence drawn from UM admissions practices and the religious profile of UM students in the 1920s and 30s to explore the ways in which the university both welcomed and limited the presence of Jewish students in this period. Kosher reception to follow. UM Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, Room 100, 913 South University Avenue. This lecture is related to the exhibition, "*Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries.*" See exhibition description shown on February 1. Exhibition open until 7 p.m. following lecture. For information, visit www.lib.umich.edu/events/not-loud-offensive-type or email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 4–5:30 p.m.

**Nachamu–Shiva Minyan Leader Training: TBE.** 7–8:30 p.m.

**Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad.** Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m.

## *Friday 3*

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Lunch and Learn: TBE.** Noon–1 p.m.

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5 p.m.

**Family Shabbat Services: TBE.** Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Learner's Pre-Service from 7:10–7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service–Third Grade Shabbat and Birthday Blessings from 7:30–9 p.m.

**First Friday Shabbat: JCS.** Join in welcoming Shabbat with secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine and challah. Dinner will follow the short observance. Children always welcome. No cost for JCS members. Dinner cost for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Held at the JCC. Register online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/observances/shabbat/. 6:30–9 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## *Saturday 4*

**Blood Drive: TBE Brotherhood.** 8:45 a.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Torah Study: TBE.** 8:50–9:50 a.m.

**Shabbat Limmud: BIC.** 9 a.m.

**Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat: BIC.** 9:30 a.m.

**Chapel Service: TBE.** 10–11:30 a.m.

**Kindergarten Family Program: TBE.** 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

**Bowling and Dinner: TBE Brotherhood.** Offsite. 5:30–9 p.m.

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## *Sunday 5*

**World Wide Wrap: BIC.** 9:30 a.m.

**March on Washington–Past and Present: JCS.** Join JCS members and others who attended either the 1963 March on Washington or the 2017 Women's March to hear their reflections on those experiences. RSVP requested at info@jewishculturalsociety.org. Held at the JCC. 10 a.m.

**Social Action Committee Meeting: BIC.** 10:30 a.m.

**6th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Services Introduction: BIC.** 10:30 a.m.

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad.** Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

**SAC Open Meeting: TBE.** Offsite. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Ann Arbor Event and Party Showcase: JCC.** Visit this one-stop venue to meet event planners, photographers, caterers, decorators, and entertainment companies. Balloon artists, florists and more. Representatives from each company will be on hand to help with event planning needs. For information, contact Karen at (734) 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. 1–4 p.m.

**Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE.** 6:15–7:45 p.m.

## *Monday 6*

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

## *Tuesday 7*

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions: Chabad.** JLI Course. Engage in a brain-twisting, mind-wrestling, hair-splitting experience as you explore the complex dilemmas that arise by examining original Talmudic texts. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome for conversation in mame-loshn, which translates to "mother tongue." For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5:30 p.m.

**"The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime-Ministers:" Frankel Center.** Presented by Yael Aronoff of Michigan State University. 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022. For information, see lsa.umich.edu/Judaic/. 4:10 p.m.

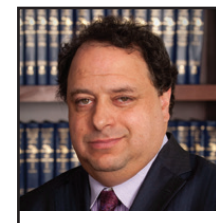
**Adult Hebrew Hebrew Intermediate: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice: BIC.** 6 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew 101: TBE.** 6–7 p.m.

**Brotherhood Board Meeting: TBE.** 7:15–8:45 p.m.

**Crafting Challah Covers: Jewish Women's Circle.** With local artist Gabrielle Pescador, at the home of Esther Goldstein. Donation requested of $10.

NACHTLAW

Employment Law | Education Law | Criminal Defense

(888) 312-7173

*By your side*℠

*Serving Michigan and Ohio*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

- Downtown Grocery Store (no membership required)
- Fresh Local Produce
- Hot & Cold Food Bar
- Live Music Thursdays after 6PM
- Near Zingerman's & Farmer's Market

shop during our CONVENIENT STORE HOURS

monday-saturday 8AM - 10PM | sunday 9AM - 10PM

Café VERDE FAIR TRADE COFFEE BAR

PEOPLE'S FOOD CO-OP BAKERY & NATURAL FOODS GROCERY STORE

216 N. FOURTH AVENUE ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PHONE (734) 994 - 9174 • PEOPLESFOOD.COOP

Like brides love the hora.

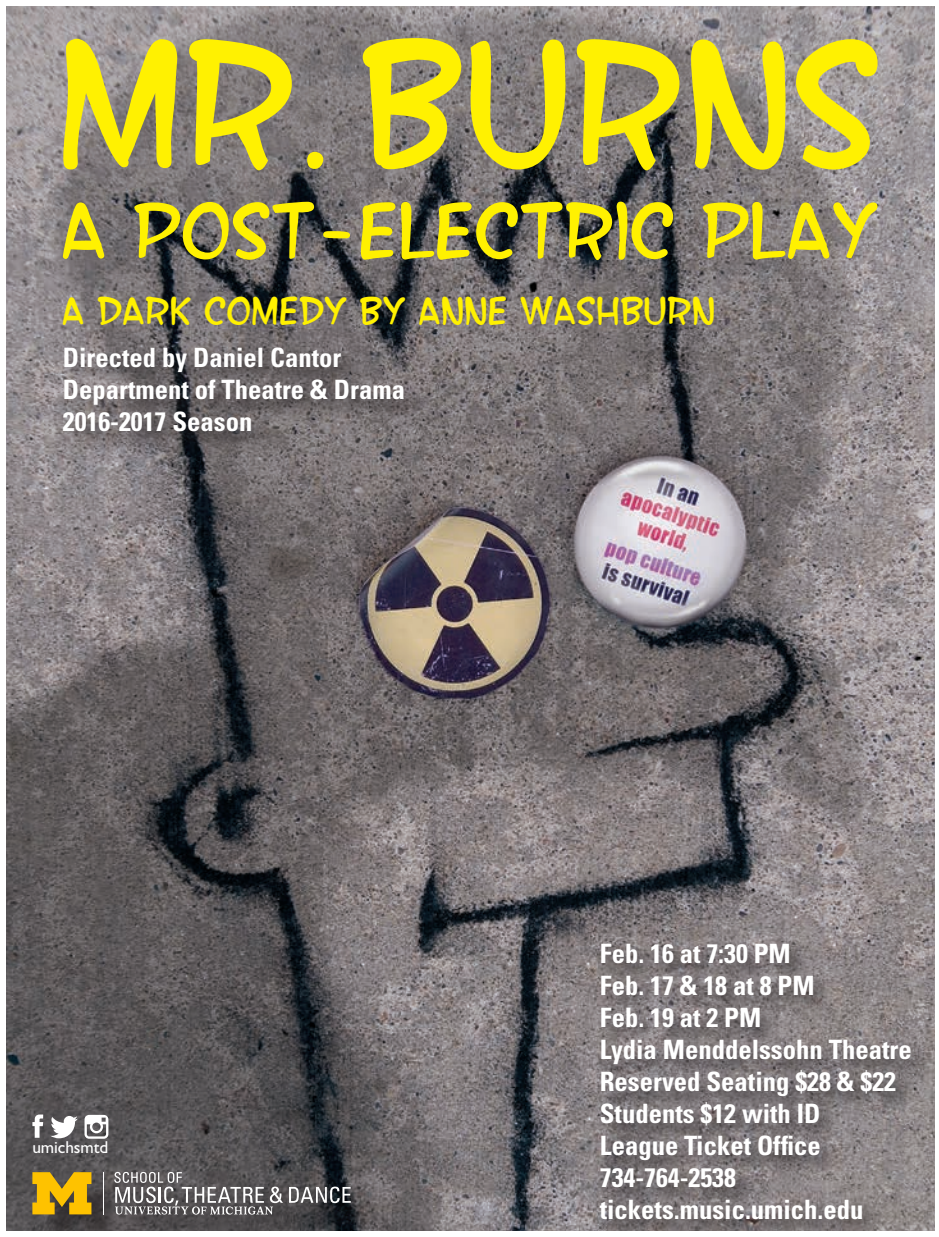
We love to help.

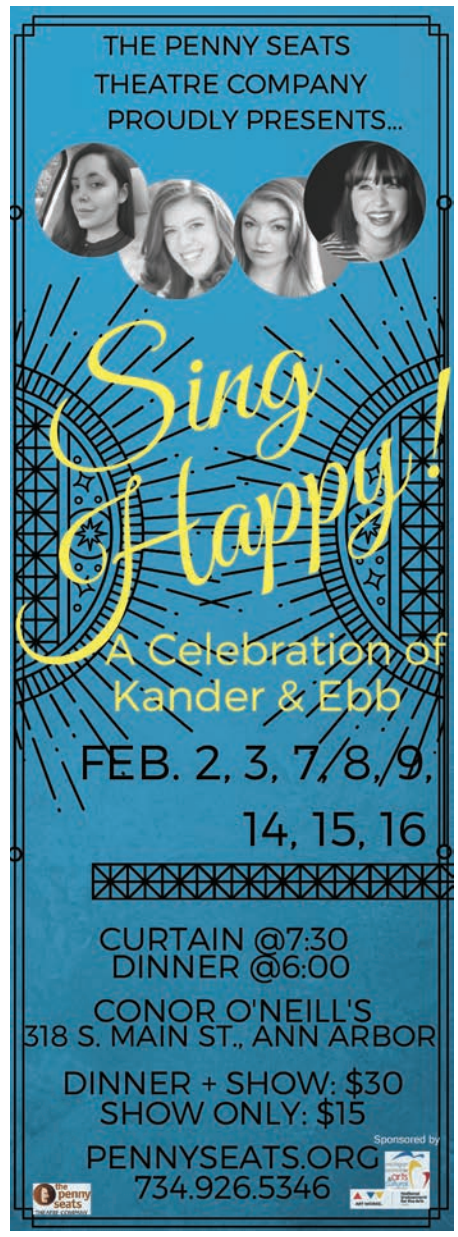
How can we help you?

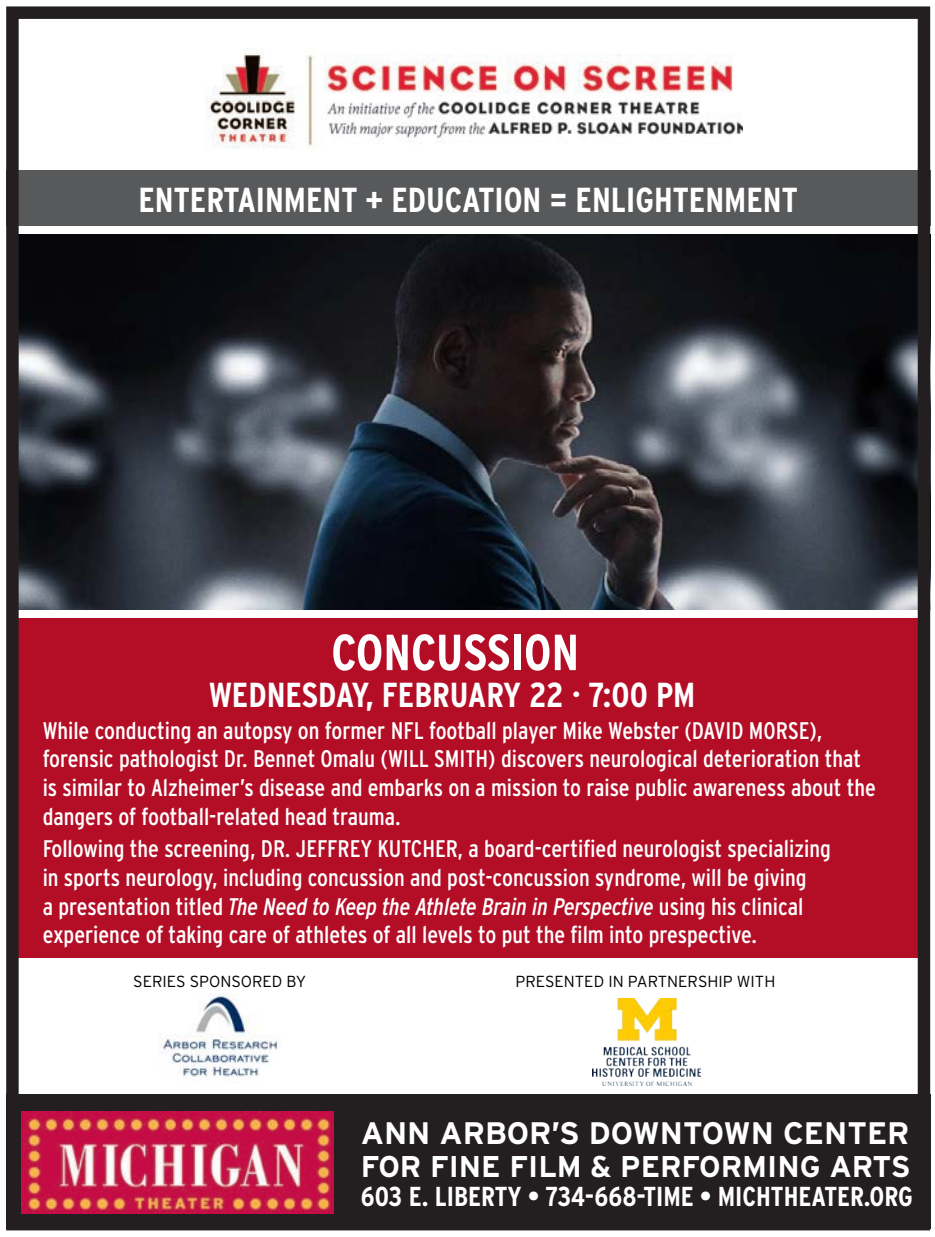
boaa.com 734.662.1600

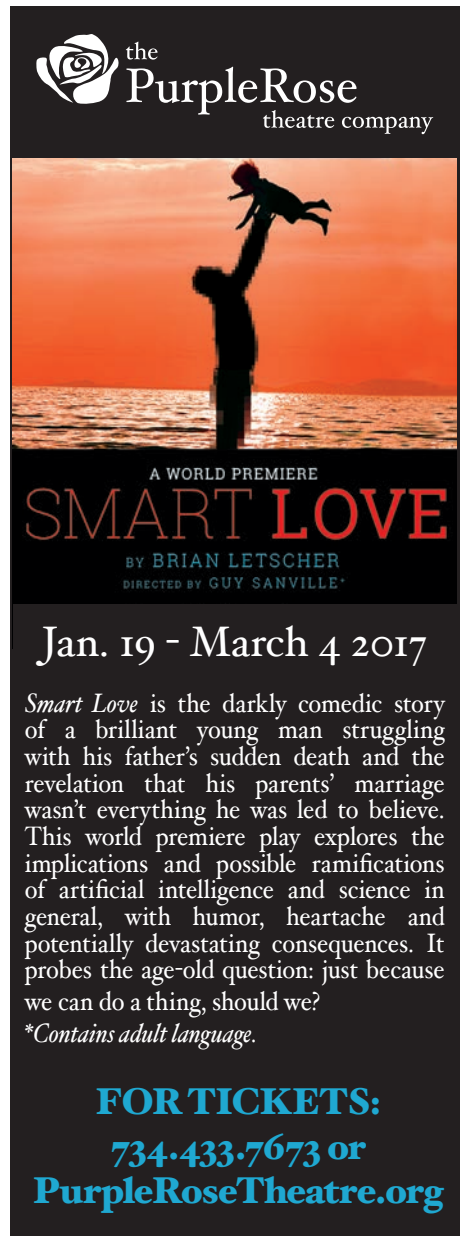
bank of ann arbor

Member FDIC




# Calendar

Space is limited. To RSVP, email esther@jewmich.com. 7:30 p.m.

**Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Wednesday 8

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Adult Hebrew Advanced: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Keshet: TBE.** 6–8:30 p.m.

**Land Conservancy Talk: JCC.** Founded in 1971 as Michigan's first local land trust, Legacy Land Conservancy is a private nonprofit organization that works with individuals, landowners, organizations, and local government to protect forests, prairies, farms, wetlands and waters. For information, contact Karen at (734) 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

**Theology Book Club: BIC.** 8 p.m.

## Thursday 9

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Lunch & Learn: Ann Arbor Film Festival: JCC.** The Ann Arbor Film Festival, the longest running independent film festival in North America, aims to support bold, visionary filmmakers advance the art form of film and new nedia and engage communities with remarkable cinematic experiences. Learn about the six day festival that celebrates all genres and types of film. For information, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

**Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE.** 1:30–2:15 p.m.

**WTBE Fiber Arts Group: TBE.** 7–9 p.m.

**Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *See first Thursday of the month.*

## Friday 10

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Lunch and Learn: TBE.** Noon–1 p.m.

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5 p.m.

**Family Shabbat Services: TBE.** Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Shira–Musical Shabbat Presentation from 7:30–9 p.m.

**Tu B'Shvat Seder: Chabad.** Seder during Shabbat dinner. Holiday celebration of Jewish Arbor Day, featuring a seder of special food and drinks from Israel, a study session on the meaning of the day, and the Jewish perspective on ecology. 6:30 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 11

**Torah Study: TBE.** 8:50–9:50 a.m.

**Second Saturday Shabbat: AARC.** Participative community service integrates traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary English readings. Includes Torah service and discussion. At the JCC. 10 a.m.–Noon.

**Chapel Service: TBE.** 10–11 a.m.

**6th Grade Luncheon and Service: TBE.** 10 a.m.12:30 p.m.

**Baby Shabbat: TBE.** 10:45 a.m.–Noon

**Tot Shabbat: BIC.** 11:15 a.m.

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## Sunday 12

**Gan Katan: BIC.** 9:30 a.m.

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad.** Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

**Celebrating TBE's Archive: TBE.** 4–6 p.m.

**Shir Chadash: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Teen Parenting Workshop–Ruth Moscow-Cohen: TBE.** 6–7:30 p.m.

**Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE.** 6:15–7:45 p.m.

## Monday 13

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Women of TBE Reading Group: "The Historical Novel:" TBE.** 12:30–2 p.m.

**Women's Torah Study: TBE.** 7–8:30 p.m.

## Tuesday 14

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions: Chabad.** 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

**"Jewishness and Modernist Fiction:" Frankel Center.** Presented by Walter Cohen of the University of Michigan. 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022. For information, see lsa.umich.edu/Judaic/. Noon–1 p.m. p.m.

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome for conversation in mame-loshn, which translates to "mother tongue." For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5:30 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew Intermediate: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew 101: TBE.** 6–7 p.m.

**Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *Tuesdays*.

## Wednesday 15

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Lunch and Learn: BIC.** Noon.

**Mahj: TBE.** Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

**Hebrew School: TBE.** 415–6 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew Advanced: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Keshet: TBE.** 6–8:30 p.m.

**Theology Book Club: BIC.** 8 p.m.

**Board Meeting: BIC.** 8 p.m.

## Thursday 16

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Wieseneck Symposium: Multilingualism in Israeli Literature: Frankel Institute.** With Maya Barzilai, Yael Kenan and Shachar Pinsker of the University of Michigan; Naomi Brenner of Ohio State University; Adriana Jacobs of the University of Oxford; Lital Levy of Princeton University; Alex Moshkin of the University of Pennsylvania; and Rachel Selig of the University of Chicago. At the UM Horace H. Rackham Graduate School. For information, see lsa.umich.edu/Judaic/. 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Lunch & Learn: Mindo Chocolate Makers: JCC.** Mindo Chocolate Makers, a Michigan business that spans two countries and two continents, is a bean to bar chocolate producer that started in Dexter, Michigan in 2009. Learn about these chocolate makers who harvest the cacao beans from organic farms in Ecuador in order to create tasty craft chocolate. For information or to RSVP, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

**Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE.** 1:30–2:15 p.m.

**Membership Committee Meeting: TBE.** 7:30–8:30 p.m.

**Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

## Friday 17

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**Lunch and Learn: TBE.** Noon–1 p.m.

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5 p.m.

**Family Shabbat Services: TBE.** Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Shabat B'Yachad/Shabbat Together from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. Shabbat Service from 7:30–9 p.m.

**Carlebach and Chicken Soup Service and Dinner: BIC.** 6 p.m.

## Saturday 18

**Torah Study: TBE.** 8:50–9:50 a.m.

**Chapel Service: TBE.** 10–11:30 a.m.

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## Sunday 19

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad.** Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

**Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE.** 6:15–7:45 p.m.

## Monday 20

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**KidZone Vacation Day: JCC.** Vacation Days provide fun and adventure for children K-5 when Ann Arbor Public Schools and Hebrew Day School have scheduled closures. Children hang out in the new KidZone Lounge complete with computers, games and a reading area, have arts and crafts time, play sports, and watch a kid-friendly movie. For more information, including pricing details) or to register, view www.jccannarbor.org or contact Tamara at (734) 971-0990 or by email at tamaralewis@jccannarbor.org. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**TBE Game Day: TBE.** 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**Keshet: TBE.** 6–8:30 p.m.

## Tuesday 21

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**KidZone Vacation Day: JCC.** 1–4 p.m. *See February 20.*

**The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions: Chabad.** 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome for conversation in mame-loshn, which translates to "mother tongue." For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5:30 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew Intermediate: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew 101: TBE.** 6–7 p.m.

**Spirituality Book Club: TBE.** 7:30–8:30 p.m.

**WTBE Board Meeting: TBE.** 7:30–9:30 p.m.

**Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

## Wednesday 22

**Exhibition: Striving to Stimulate Serious Thought: Jewish Scholarly and Cultural Life at Michigan Across Two Centuries: UM Library.** *See February 1.*

**KidZone Vacation Day: JCC.** 1–4 p.m. *See February 20.*

**Lunch and Laugh: BIC.** Noon.

**Adult Hebrew Advanced: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**"The Jewish Comics:" JCC.** Lively talk by Larry Kuperman with fun tidbits about why there are so many Jewish comedians, including interesting facts about their lives. Donations appreciated. For information, contact Karen at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or phone (734) 971-0990. 6:30–8 p.m.

**Theology Book Club: BIC.** 8 p.m.

## Thursday 23

**Spirituality Book Club: TBE.** 12:30–1:30 p.m.

**KidZone Vacation Day: JCC.** 1–4 p.m. *See February 20.*

**Lunch and Learn: Sophie Grillet: JCC.** Sophie Grillet is a British artist who works in Ann Arbor using a variety of media including acrylics, clay sculpture and photography. Ms. Grillet will discuss her works that were on display this past summer at the J's Amster Gallery. For information or to RSVP, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 1–2 p.m.

**Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Sit: TBE.** 1:30–2:15 p.m.

**Brotherhood Guys Night Out: TBE.** Offsite. 6–7:30 p.m.

**WTBE Fiber Arts Group: TBE.** 7–9 p.m.

**Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *See first Thursday of the month.*

## Friday 24

**Lunch and Learn: TBE.** Noon–1 p.m.

**KidZone Vacation Day: JCC.** 1–4 p.m. *See February 20.*

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 4–5 p.m.

**Shabbat Achat Dinner: TBE.** 6–6:30 p.m.

**Shabbat Achat Service: TBE.** 6:30–9 p.m.

**Tot Shabbat: AARC.** Prior to Fourth Friday Services, bring little ones for singing and fun with Rabbi Alana or another service leader. Pizza provided. Stay for services (indicate if you need childcare) or go on home for an early evening. At the JCC. 5:45–6:15 p.m.

**Fourth Friday Shabbat Services and Potluck: AARC.** Lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat services. Followed by vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children and childcare provided during services. At the JCC. 6:30–8 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 25

**Torah Study: TBE.** 8:50–9:50 a.m.

**Shabbat Limmud: BIC.** 9 a.m.

**6th Grade Shabbat with the Rabbis: BIC.** 9:30 a.m.

**Tot Shabbat: BIC.** 11:15 a.m.

**Kiddush: TBE.** 10:45–12:45 p.m.

**Winter Fun Night: BIC.** 7:30 p.m.

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at the end of the calendar*

## Sunday 26

**Book Club: AARC.** Participants will discuss, *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself,* by Donniel Hartman. At a private home. 9:45–11:30 a.m.

**Book Club: JCS.** Join a discussion of *The Lemon Tree,* by Sandy Tolan. Need not be a Book Club member to attend. RSVP requested at info@jewishculturalsociety.org. Held at the JCC. 10 a.m.

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad.** Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

**Shir Chadash: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE.** 6:15–7:45 p.m.

**"The Music of the Independent Minyanim:" BIC.** Presented by Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz. 7 p.m.

## Monday 27

**Women's Torah Study: TBE.** 7–8:30 p.m.

**Men's Torah Study: TBE.** 7–9 p.m.

## Tuesday 28

**The Dilemma: Modern Conundrums. Talmudic Debates. Your Solutions: Chabad.** 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

***Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group):** Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League, 911 North University. All levels and ages welcome for conversation in mame-loshn, which translates to "mother tongue." For information, email egertel@umich.edu or phone (734) 936-2367. 1:30 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

**Shalom Gever (Jewish Karate): TBE.** 5–6:30 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew Intermediate: TBE.** 5–6 p.m.

**Adult Hebrew: TBE.** 6–7 p.m.

**Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad.** 8 p.m. *Tuesdays*.

## Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

## Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Morning services held the second Saturday of each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon, integrating traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings including Torah service and discussion. A morning of songs and text study takes place the first Saturday of each month. Shabbat services and a vegetarian potluck take place the fourth Friday of each month, starting at 6:30 p.m. For more info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown. Call 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

## Frequently listed phone numbers and addresses of organizations :

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street (734) 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive (734) 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. (734) 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street (734) 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive (734) 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive (734) 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street (734) 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive (734) 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. (734) 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road (734) 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street (734) 769-0500

### Shabbat Candlelighting

| | |
|---|---|
| **February 3** | **5:31 p.m.** |
| **February 10** | **5:41 p.m.** |
| **February 17** | **5:50 p.m.** |
| **February 24** | **5:58 p.m.** |

# Seva

## Fresh *Imaginative* **Vegetarian** Cuisine

· Wine Bar · Cappuccino · Fresh Juice Bar ·
· Craft Cocktails · Kids' Menu Available ·

**We've moved to Ann Arbor's West Side!**

**· Free, convenient parking in the Westgate Shopping Center ·**
**2541 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor MI 48103**

734· 662· 1111 www.sevarestaurant.com

# Zingerman's® DELICATESSEN

734.663.DELI (3354) | 422 Detroit Street | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | www.zingermansdeli.com

## IT'S POT PIE SEASON!

**$10.99 each!**

Available frozen, ready-to-heat or ready-to-eat!

**Stock up and Save!**

Buy 10 or more, save 10%
Buy 20 or more, save 20%
Buy 30 or more, save 30%

Don't forget about Pot Pie Bag Lunches! These delectable, hearty meals are available through Zingerman's Catering & Events, complete with green salad dressed in balsamic vinaigrette, a mini brownie, napkin and utensils. $17.99

available for delivery

### classic chicken

Roasted, free-range chicken handpicked off the bone and blended with big chunks of carrots, celery, potatoes, onions and herbs. Wrapped in a handmade butter crust. It's the perfect lazy cook winter meal; it's warm, filling and easier than pie.

### john h. turkey

John & Nick Harnois Farm turkey with big chunks of celery, carrots, onions, potatoes and spiced with Turkish Urfa pepper and fresh herbs. Then wrapped in a handmade butter crust.

### darina's dingle

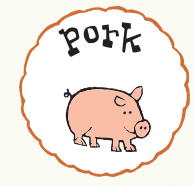
A salute to the miners on the Dingle Peninsula of Ireland: this pie is made with lamb from Hannewald Farm in Stockbridge, MI, loads of potatoes, rutabaga, onions and a dash of cumin and rosemary. Wrapped miner-style (no tin) in a butter crust.

### fungi pot pie (vegetarian selection!)

A fun pie for the fungiphiles! Wild Michigan Maitake Mushrooms, Shiitake mushrooms and a little Balinese Long Pepper tucked in an all-butter crust.

### the red brick beef

This beef pie is our heartiest, packed with big chunks of all natural beef from Ernst Farm here in Washtenaw County, carrots, potatoes, fresh herbs and wrapped in our handmade crust.




### cheshire pork

Made from hogs raised at Ernst Farm, braised with onions, apple cider and spices then stuffed in a handmade pastry crust with Michigan apples. Wrapped miner style (no tin).

# Vitals

### *Mazal tov*

Elijah Klein on his bar mitzvah, February 18.
Joey Lopez on his bar mitzvah, February 25.
Dave and Susan Gitterman on the birth of their granddaughter, Lauren, November 24.
Richard and Linda Greene on the birth of their grandsons, Maxwell and Kai, November 27.
Mark and Leslie Rosenwasser on the birth and adoption of their granddaughter Eliza, December 6..

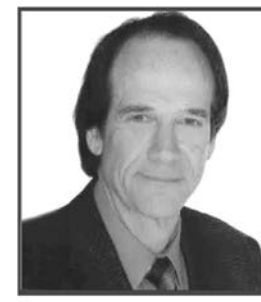
### *Condolences*

Paul Metler on the death of his father, Norbert Samuel Metler, November 5.
Dana Horowitz on the death of her father, Jack Horowitz, November 9.
The family of Sara Lampert on her death. November 17.
Eileen Thacker on the death of her mother Evelyn Solomon, November 22.
Ruth Markovitz on the death of her mother, Evelyn Hurwicz, November 23.
Ann Wasciuk on the death of her brother David Sack, December 11.
Karlan Bender on the death of his mother, Edna Bender, December 12.
Clare Kinberg on the death of her mother Rhoda G. Kershman Kinberg, January 5.
Grace Boxer on the death of her husband Larry Boxer, January 8.

# Advertisers


A Place Somewhere B&B .....13
Afternoon Delight .....6
Alex Milshteyn .....3
Amadeus Café, Patisserie.....2
Ann Arbor City Club.....6
Ann Arbor District Library .....10
Bank of Ann Arbor.....19
Bennett Optometry.....23
Camp Gan Israel .....24
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum, mohel ..23
Chelsea Flower Shop .....23
Encore Online Resale.....13
Forward.com .....13
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies ....13
Gold Bond Cleaners.....23
Hebrew Day School .....5
Carol Hoffer, CLU, CASL .....2
Jewish Community Center.....10
Jewish Family Services.....10
Michigan Theater .....20
Modern Mechanical .....23
MOSA Audiology .....12
Nacht Law .....19
Page Avenue Books.....2
Pam Sjo,The Reinhart Company.....2
Penny Seats Theatre Co. .....20
People's Food Co-op.....19
Priceless Preservation .....12
PTD Productions.....23
Purple Rose Theatre Co. .....20
Seva Restaurant.....22
Summers-Knoll School.....15
Susan Ayer Photography .....13
University Productions.....20
Zingerman's .....22




CANTOR SAMUEL
GREENBAUM
–Certified Mohel–
Skill, Sensitivity and Tradition come together to create your special Bris.
Answering all your anesthetic & aftercare needs.
(248) 855-A BOY (2269)
Office (248) 547-7970
perfectnow@excite.com
1299150

Chelsea Flower Shop, LLC
203 E. Liberty St. Phone 662-5616
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.chelseaflowersllc.com
FTD
Over 60 years of excellent services

Serving Ann Arbor for Over 30 Years
gold bond cleaners
Quality Dry Cleaning
& Shirt Service
332 Maynard St.
across from the Nickels Arcade
668-7017
668-6335

THE MOMENT
WHEN COOLNESS
MEETS SAFETY
It's wintertime, which means the days are shorter but much brighter when we are enjoying our favorite sports in the snow. BENNETT OPTOMETRY provides:
- Daily wear contact lenses with UV protection for all outside activities
- MultiFocal contact lens to read the ski maps and still get down the hill
- Prescription sunglasses
- Sports glasses for protection

Call today for more information and to schedule an appointment with the specialists at Bennett Optometry. Bennett Optometry. The Eye Care Professionals. Good Vision, Good Health.
Bennett OPTOMETRY
THE EYE CARE PROFESSIONALS
117 SOUTH MAIN STREET: 734.665.5306
2623 PLYMOUTH ROAD: 734.930.2373
CLINIC FOR VISION ENHANCEMENT: 734.665.5310
WWW.BENNETTOPTOMETRY.COM

PETIE THE DOG
PTD PRODUCTIONS
Ypsilanti Theatre at its Best
www.ptdproductions.com
Join us for our 2016 Season
Love, Loss and What I Wore
by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron, based on the book by Ilene Beckerman
Feb. 23, 24, 25, 26 – March 1, 2, 3, 4
Anatomy of a Murder
by Robert Traver, Elihu Winer
Aug 24, 25, 26, 27 – 30, 31, Sep 1, 2
August Osage County
by Tracy Letts
May 11, 12, 13, 14 – 17,18, 19, 20
Farce of Nature
by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten
Nov 9, 10, 11, 12 – 15, 16, 17, 18

Heating and Cooling Specialists
A/C • Furnaces • Humidifiers • Air Cleaners
Carrier
Turn to the Experts.
MODERN MECHANICAL
Alan Friedman
Serving our community since 1985
734-662-6644
www.modernmechanical.net

# CAMP GAN ISRAEL

## SUMMER 2017

CAMP GAN ISRAEL

THE FUN BEGINS
**June 26th – August 11th**

## NEW THIS YEAR: BUILD YOUR OWN GAN IZZY EXPERIENCE

**At Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett Ann Arbor, Mi 48104**

**Hours:** 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
**Extended Care:** 8:00AM – 9:00AM & 3:45PM to 5:45PM

"CGI has taken care of my girls since they were practically toddlers, and I've been happy to send them back every year since! Shternie is wonderful, and has been very good to us over the years." –CGI Parent

Contact Shternie Zwiebel 734-995-3276 #15 · director@mycampganisrael.com
www.mycampganisrael.com